

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

Envelope: Rev. S. A. Barnard, Willsboro, Essex County, New York

Camp 20th Mich. Inf.
Warrenton Junct. Va.
Apl. 29th 1864

Dear Father

I am here with the Regt. again in the 9th Corps - have just marched from Annapolis and am well. It is rumored that Burnside will form the right of the Army of the Potomac in the great struggle for Richmond & we are so far on our way. The Expedition seems to be forgotten, and perhaps - since Grant has had command - has not been meditated at head quarters.

We hear that all communication with the Army of the Potomac is to be stopped for sixty days & you will not wonder why my letters do not reach you - if such is the case - but I will write as often as once a week when I am satisfied that my letters will pass Washington without delay.

We have been marching constantly for six days & I am getting so as to keep up with any thing that moves with us. We passed through Washington several days ago & were reviewed by the President as we passed Willards Hotel - he stood up like a gaunt sun-flower & took a birds eye view of us - and a great many pronounced the 20th Michigan the finest looking Regt. in the Corps - confirming the opinion we have long had of ourselves.

They seem to think that Lee must be whipped this time and every effort will be made to do it. I think the Army of the Potomac was never larger than now & never any better commanded & I think if we do not go to Richmond this summer we never can get there by fighting. Mead must have 150,000 men & Butler and Burnside have large commands to co-operate with him. When you write - address 20th Mich. Inf. 9th Army Corps, Washington.

Yours &c

Wm. A. Barnard

I have just recd. a letter from Ellen via Lansing -

W.A.B.