

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

Envelope: Rev. S.A. Barnard, Willsborough, Essex County, N. York

[This letter is from 1st Lieut. Prescott M. Skinner of Co. A & G - 20th Mich. Infantry - ?]

Camp near Williams [?] House
Sept. 11 [1864]

Mr. Barnard

Sir

Your favor of Sept. 6 came to hand this morning & I will not ^[sic] make at least an attempt to answer some of the questions you ask in regard to the treatment of prisoners. I have every reason to believe that Commissioned Officers are comparatively well treated in fact as well as they could expect, under such circumstances. Two officers from the 17th Mich. with whom I am well acquainted had the misfortune to be taken prisoner at the battle of Spottsylvania [sic]. They were confined in Richmond for some time and from there went to Charleston S.C. after remaining there some time they were brought back to Richmond and from that city went to Lynchburg and from that place made their escape in to our lines. I have since seen them and conversed with them. They say they could not expect any better treatment. Their _____ - property was not molested and they had plenty to eat - such as it was. The reason William was taken prisoner was that he remained to [sic] long in the Fort until the enemy in strong force was almost on to him and he preferred taking a trip South to the chance of losing [sic] his life in attempting to fall back in to our works under [?] a murderous fire across an open field. In my opinion he showed his good sense and judgment. Had I remained as long as he did I should never have made the attempt to reach our lines. A few days since I had occasion to visit City Point and looking among the baggage found William's valise and got my book [?] out and then started it on the boat to you, most probably it has reached you ere this time. I was not acquainted with William until we met in the Regiment. I am a resident of Ypsilanti Michigan. Many thanks for your kind wishes & let me tell you I am most glad to have you express yourself so plainly on the War. I am glad to know that there are at least a few men in the North that have got back [?] enough to go through with this. Let me hear from you soon. I remain Sir your most Obt. Servt. -

P. M. Skinner
Lieut. Comdg. Co.s A & G
20 Mich.