

Captain William A. Barnard, 20<sup>th</sup> Michigan Infantry, 1862-1865

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

Opposite Fredericksburgh  
Jan. 1st 1863

Dear Father

I have just received your letter of Christmas enclosing one dated the 22d saying you had heard nothing from me since the battle.

I wrote immediately after we re-crossed the river to Edward & have written since then - you have probably recd. the letters before this time.

I am well - and think the service agrees with me as I still keep on growing & am, without doubt the largest member of the family.

The mittens were just what I wanted - if the fingers had been grafted on in a little better style. I never had much faith in Ellen's knitting.

I have got every thing you have sent from home & need nothing more at present. I have just recd. a pr. of mittens from friends in Lansing.

We are having fine weather and have comfortable quarters - the men have all built log shanties & have their tents for the roof - & regular old Va. fire places & chimney - so we keep warm.

We were under marching orders a few days ago - but they were countermanded. We remain here inactive as an army - except picket duty on the out posts along the river. The Rebs. hold the City & remain in their intrenchments. We can see their pickets along the opposite bank & our pickets talk with them & exchange daily papers. Some of the Reb. pickets came over & had a Christmas dinner with our pickets. The privates are friendly and anxious to settle the war & go home, but the leaders are the same rebellious abolition haters they have been & keep their troops in the rank by free distribution of whiskey - tobacco & Confederate money - all the prisoners [sic] we took had plenty of money & say that they have a wagon in their trains to carry the money & let the men have all they want.

Mr. Lacey is working to get me a commission & I think before long I shall be ~~1st~~ Lt. in some of the Co's.

I am glad Ellen has a school so near home & plenty of skating. We have no skating but excitement of another kind.

I saw by the Coos [?] paper that Col. Cross was mortally wounded. There were more slight wounds than in any other fight during the War - & the most daring & desperate fighting - but it was impossible to take the Reb'l. works - they had every possible advantage.

Wishing you all a happy new year, I close.

Yours &c,

Wm. A. Barnard