

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

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

Camp 20th Mich. Inf'ty.
Opposite Spottsylvania
Court House Va. May 16th 64

Dear Sister

I wrote to Father yesterday but we are notified that we can send a mail tonight & I write. We still front Lee's whole army and have been fighting him since the 5th without hardly a moments rest. We have captured quite an army of prisoners [sic] & considerable artillery & lost heavy on both sides. I have escaped so far, with only five or six scratches - i.e. got several bullet holes through my clothes without further injury. We are now in rifle pits - holding our position - & waiting apparently for Butler & our Cavalry forces to cut Lee's communication with Richmond. Grant has crossed the Rapid-Ann [sic] successfully & stopped longer than any other Genl. that has commanded the Army of the Potomac - and every one thinks here that he will have Richmond and defeat & demoralize Lee's army before he stops fighting or goes back to Washington - at least we crossed the Rapidan [sic] with sixty days supplies & shall probably remain here that length of time certain.

I am well but about tired out - when we get in camp again I will write more. It has rained here for several days and is quite muddy. Write often. We have received no letters since this campaign commenced.

Yours &c

Wm. A. Barnard
Co. "H" 20th Mich. Inf.
9th Army Corps