

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

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

May 22d 1863
Louisville Ky.

Dear Sister

I have your last letter - and was ordered here last week with about half of our line officers to be mustered out of the service as an enlisted man & into the service again as a com'd. officer. My papers are not properly made out & I am delayed here several days - & shall probably be obliged to return to the Regt. at **Columbia** & make another journey here in the course of two or three weeks. **Louisville** is quite a large City - & I like stopping here after marching through the country so long. **Kentucky** is a rich farming state - but the **niggers** neglect it awfully & **seldom** get over a half a crop. The country where we have been is very **hilly** - & I should judge it was all through the Eastern part of the state. It is nearly as bad as **Western Va.** There are no **villages** back from the **important places** - **except** the county seat of **each Co.** There they build a **Court House** - **and houses** enough around it to get up about such a place as **Willsboro.**

What **part** of **Ky.** did **Jennette Frisbie** inhabit - and ask her if she has any word to send to her ~~but~~^{acquaintances} acquaintances in case I happen to see them. We are having **pretty warm** weather here now & shall have to suffer from the heat this **summer.** We have **warm days** and generally **pretty cool nights** as we did in **Va.**

Let me know when you will go to **Ausable Forks** and whether you think you will like living there **any better** than **Willsboro.** I **never** could distinguish any great differences - but should miss **Lake Champlain** if I was obliged to live there in the **backwoods.**

If you go there I shall have to get there via **Willsboro** when I get my leave of absence.

I am well but loosing [sic] **flesh some** this spring since we commenced marching. When I write nothing about **my health** you **may** reckon [sic] (as the **Kentuckians** say) that I am **"right smart"** and well enough to do duty.

Remember me to **Uncle Chas. Sheldon, Jule, Sarah, Eunice** & all your **Willsboro** squad of associates and tell **them** this **Ho** [?] **Cake** & **butter-milk** region is growing in **grace & loyalty** and must soon be **uncomfortable** for any but **Abe's** own children.

There is a report that **Buckner** is trying to get into the state with **17,000** men - by advancing at three different points but I do not think he will come far enough to **meet** **Burnside.** **Morgan** is afraid to fight us - & will let us alone as long as he can find anything to steal. Write soon.

Yours &c

Wm. A. Barnard