

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

Envelope: Miss Emily P. Barnard, Willsboro, Essex County, New York

Columbia Ky. June 2d 1863

Dear Sister

I have just got your letter and was glad to hear that Father was sufficiently disgusted with Ausable. I never was there but once - but remember the place perfectly - and made up my mind when I left, never to allow myself to go to such a place again, however much they might suffer for good society - or lament the ignorance of their children.

I would about as soon think of living here in Ky. where if you ask a person a question & he does not understand you he exclaims - which!

If you tell one he has a pretty smart nigger - its - well I reckon! If you ask him if there is [sic] any Rebs down on the Cumberland - its - well I reckon there's a right smart of em I say I would about as soon live here where a nigger would be the soul [?] of my body and corn bread & buttermilk my living as to go to Ausable Forks with an idea of making it my home.

Michigan is the place - there is no ague along the Central R. R. or in the northern part of the state where it is settled, and so much improved. The ague follows the new parts of the country, where it is not under much improvement. I find by inquiring of a number of Grass Lake men in the Regt. that it is a villiage [sic] that does as much business as any place of its size along the Central road. There is a rich farming country all around it and the farmers are generally wealthy - there are seven stores there - and three Churches - Baptist - Methodist & Congregational - and the best class of people belong to the Cong'l. - so a fellow told me whose father & mother belong to that Church.

I am as well as usual and we are under marching orders to - go somewhere - I do not know where - but it is in light marching order & eight days rations - to a man. I think we are going to review our experience with Morgan and follow him until we kill him or scare him to death - he has a constant fear of these Mitchigan [sic] men since our fight. We have found out that he burried [sic] 117 & had about 200 wounded - he said every time our men shot one of his men would drop dead & not move - & when told that we had only about 300 men against his six thousand he said it was a lie - one of our Lieut's. that he took prisoner [sic] has just made his escape & got back to us. We lost only six men - killed and our wounded (about twenty) are at Louisville doing well.

We are having fine weather and anxious to go father south.

Write often - give me the Willsboro news & have Mother write me when she gets to Wilton & Groton.

Your Brother

Wm. A. Barnard

P.S. We have just been changed to the 3d Brigade & are no~~x~~ longer in the 1st.

W.A.B.