

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

Envelope: Miss Ellen A. Barnard, Willsboro, Essex County (No State)

Louisville Ky. Mch. 28th 63

Dear Sister

We reached here yesterday after a nine days journey from Newport News and are in the Dept. of Ohio under Burnside. Our Brigade and part of the 2d are here and the rest of the Corps is coming - we are as well as usual - but about tired out.

We took a transport at Newport - went to Norfolk for coal - and waited some-time on account of a storm - then went to Fort Monroe & reported to the flag ship and started for Baltimore - took the Baltimore & Ohio R. R. via Harpers Ferry, Hancock & Cumberland - to Parkersburg - and then got aboard a river steamer and came here at the rate of 20 miles an hour - went ashore at Cincinnati got a splendid breakfast - saw Genl. Burnside - & got up quite a sensation marching through the City - as they told us we were the first Regt. of drilled troops they had seen. We have had a long and interesting journey of over one thousand miles & aside from the fatigue and vigilance in keeping the men together on the route, enjoyed it very much. My Capt. is home on a visit and the 1st Lieut. has resigned and I had command of the Co. all the way & shall have until the Capt. gets back.

The Union citizens of Louisville gave us a breakfast yesterday morning and seemed glad to see us. The Rebs are invading Ky. and we expect to leave here soon - & are under marching orders now - we had a fine camp at Newport News - with streets & side walks - shade trees & ornamental gardens - & plenty of oysters and enjoyed living there much, but Ky. is a good looking state & the men appear to like here even better than old Va. which it took us so long to leave - but we bid it a long farewell at Parkersburg & don't want to go back until we can go to Richmond. The Inspector Genl. of the 9th Corps said at Newport that we had the best looking camp in the Corps, that our discipline [sic] was good & that our arms & accoutrements were in a beautiful condition. I havn't [sic] time to write more now or to give any account of our journey but will write when we get settled & know where we are.

Yours &c Wm. A. Barnard

(direct to Louisville instead of Wash'n.)