

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

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

In front Petersburg On
July 11th 64

Dear Sister

I received your letter yesterday & was glad to get so much news. There has been very little change in movement here since my last letter & we seem to be doing nothing but hold our position & wait for Lee to come out & fight us. The 4th was quiet on Sunday. The Rebs. expected a general engagement all along the line & so did our men but when the day came we were all surprized at its silence. I passed the day in meditation & repose - had a 4th of July dinner of baked beans & pickled onions & went on picket in the evening.

Let me know in your next if Arthur Putnam is home yet & when Arthur Cheeny will join his Regt. The 7th Mich. is about a mile on our left & if I knew when he gets here - will try and see him. Also let me know where Tom Turnbull is - whether with his Regt. or detailed yet in the Ambulance Corps.

We are having warm weather & suffer from the heat - flies & musquittoes [sic]. I am officer of the picket for our Regt. today and have my men deployed in front of our main line of works - as usual and am sitting under a tree in the shade writing. We exchange daily papers with the Rebs. & have agreed to not have any picket firing - but sit & look at each other - pick blackberries - & wish "this cruel War was over" -

There is considerable excitement here about the Maryland raid but part of the 6th Corps has gone there & we expect there are troops enough there to trouble the Rebs. about getting back to Richmond.

Remember me to Uncle Albert & wife, the Profs. & continue to give the Willsboro news.

Give me Cousin Laura's address & tell her I will write her when I get into Petersburg.

Yours &c

Wm. A. Barnard