

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

Miss Ellen A. Barnard, Willsborough, Essex Co., New York

[From Emily Barnard]

Groton April 15th 1865

Dear Sister

Will arrived here all safe Thursday night - just in time to attend our Singing School Concert in the Town Hall that evening. It passed off very well. Mr. Gilpatric brought three little girls up from the Junction who sung several songs. The last new song is, "Richmond has fallen - Mr. G. sung it and we all joined in the chorus - which is - "Richmond has fallen - Hurrah! boys, hurrah! Old Jeff and his traitors have skedaddled afar" I don't remember the verses, but it said something about - "Old Ben had the key, But his eye was so crooked, the key-hole he couldn't see. But Grant came marching down and gave a thundering knock. And didn't stop for the key, but broke the Rebel lock." We went out riding yesterday forenoon. We went up street and round "Farmer's row" and to the Junction. In the evening we went to the Glee Club and had a good time. Mrs. Hall was as lively as ever. Clara was there. I didn't have a chance to introduce William to many for they sung all the time. Mrs. Cook introduced him to several. He happened to sit beside Mrs. Thayer and had a pretty good time I guess. We went to ride again this morning round Martin's pond. Will went away on the noon train. I was hoping he would stay longer here. He says he must be in Annapolis next Friday. Is going to spend Sunday with Eaton. He didn't know but he should come back and start from here, next week. I hope he will. He looks just as he did when he was home before I think. He brought me a letter from you. I wrote to him last week but it seems he came away before it reached there. You probably got it and read it, so it is just as well. The report came this morning that President Lincoln was shot last night at the Theater and that he died in consequence. It will be dreadful if it is so. They cut Seward's throat too, and knocked his boy on the head. The sneaking wretches ought every one of them to be hung.

Sunday - The news was confirmed yesterday that Lincoln was killed. A great many of the houses have a piece of crape on the door and today the pulpit was hung with black and the stars and stripes. Mr. Nightingale gave them quite a sermon today. He told them that the vote last Fall for McClellan was the most foolish vote there had ever been in the United States. Upon that, Lizzie Lawrence got up and went out of the Church, so did Mrs. John Park & several others. When Mr. N. saw them go out he said that if there were those there that felt that it concerned them, he was glad to have them retire. He always says just what he pleases. I wrote last week of Sam Fosdick's death. Christie was perfectly stupid. She did not shed a tear or speak for several days. The Lawrences scold some about Mr. Fosdick. Mrs. L. told Aunt Lizzie that Mary hadn't had a new thing this winter. Mary used to complain of her Father some but since she has become an Episcopalian she has kept still and borne it all. She used to let the boys go away and have a good time when her Father was gone but now if they go she will tell him. Sam never went off from that place without his Father's leave. Charlie and Fred were going right to Sam as quick as they were old enough and so was Mary when she was twenty-one.

The Josselyns in Boston have succeeded in entrapping Mr. Gannet for Fanny. They say she is not a bit like Killie and that she is not at all such a person as they should think Mr. G. would fancy. I guess he hadn't spunk enough to get away from them. Mr. Gannett begun to pay attention to Laura and I guess she thought considerable of him for she is always talking about such and such a one's being to [sic] young for her. She wants somebody with a few gray hairs in their head &c. But the Josselyns couldn't stand that at

all so they told Mr. G. things that Laura had said (and some that she hadn't said I guess). He saw that they were all so set against it that he told Laura that he "thought they had better postpone that matter". So that - [Ends here]

[Added at the top of the first page] Will didn't **see** Watson at all when he was here. He was in the street some but **never** happened to meet Watson. It seems as **though he must have** known Will **was in town** for Hunt L. says that people always know when a stranger comes **into town**.

- Em.