



BENTON BARRACKS

from South East.

A.M. Lean 11th St. Louis.

Camp Willis Jefferson City Mo
May 22^d 1862

Kind Friend

We've just received your welcome letter. This afternoon I was very glad to ^{hear} you were enjoying such good health and teaching again this summer. The boys are all well and enjoying themselves first-rate. Your letter found me in the best of health. We've just pitched our tents this afternoon but we are not to stay here long we expect to strike our tents in the morning and march on to Springfield. Our Regt left St Louis 20th & went on board the boat about 10 am and we staid until ten o'clock at night and then we moved off up the Mississippi. What a pleasant ride we had we had pleasant weather all the while our Battalion had good luck good lack of food and some excitement.

The boat landed one night and some of our Company went out on picket the next day after we started that was the 14th. Our Major thought he seen a Secesh flag flying in a little Town a head and he give Orders to have every man load his Revolver I tell you what it was lively times with the boys loading there revolvers I happened to be asleep when the order was given to load but they soon woke me up, maybe I didnt hear the boys balls into my kill level but I soon hear they didnt hear old man loading any for I dont allow folks to do it, but the flag turn out to be nothing but a piece of cloth hanging out of a window.

There was two men lost over board coming up one belong to the 2^d Battalion & the other to the 3rd they were both lost in the night they never see any thing after they fell in its no ways likely they got shore for its a bad river to swim in the water runs so fast. we landed at Jefferson City the 18th just after dinner we got our horses off the boat and mounted and marched bout 1/2 a mile and pitched our tents right in a hill. I thought when we see Jefferson City we'd see something nice but I was disappointed the City aint larger then Chilten and its bout as dull a place to I like the Climate here very well its rather cool with but as tis in June we have good clear water to drink its better then

any I've had since I left - brotherhood I'm
sorry to have hear so soon an account of having
good water its a healthy place to it aint so
dreadful hot here but older brow hilly, it is hear
I dont like the Country - hear as ^{well} I did in W. Town
Will Abba our Company has been promoted to General
Brown's body guard we want go long with the
Regt right off but we'll probably follow the regt
round General Brown has the command of the whole
Concern the Town and all the troops there is a great
many troops round the City and back in the
Country there aint more than a regt in a place
but they aint a great many part
its the talk that the General is going to follow
the regt right to Whiting field and if he does
go so soon we'll have to go too but we'll have to
stay with him I dont know how long our
Company will be his body guard I may be if we
write him he'll keep us till the war is over
some of the Boys think and the Officers to that
we'll not see any very hard fighting our Capt
says that its the best place we could get into
he said that is a good place and he was detached
by the General if he would except the position
and he is to take care of the boys and get them
in the best place he could and to take the
position. We dont hear anything hardly
but how the fighting is getting long further but

I was coming down to your house Yesterday
I with my horse and saddle to take a ride
with you but it had to up and rain
and I had give it up I was very sorry
but I think I'll come down one of these days
You wanted I should better. I'd brat
his dance but I guess I can't better him
much for I've written two letters to him
and ain't received as much as a scratch from
them that was to last word he said to me
that Sunday night to write and he would
do the same

Well I've got out of
ink and I guess I'd better quit and
it's getting dark we have so much to do
to get ready to Marahar I'd went and
got more ink I must close with my
respect and good wishes to you
Give my Compliments to your inquiring
friends Sister sends his love
to you and says they don't laugh
down hear in Jefferson Pra says give
his respect to you excuse poor writing
and spelling for I had to lay right
flat down on the ground to write
pleas Direct as before