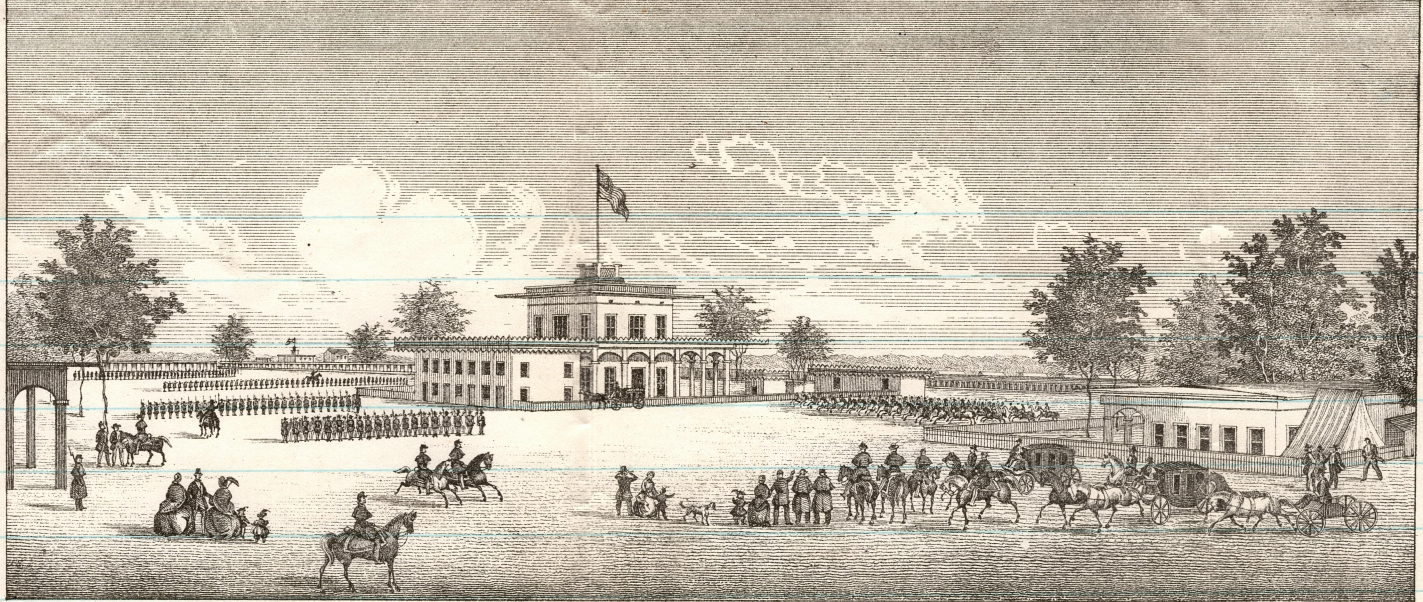




**BENTON BARRACKS**  
from South East.

A. M. Leach lith. St. Louis.

"Camp Benton  
St. Louis, Mo. Apr 30<sup>th</sup> /62

Well friend Abba

I now sit down to write  
you a few lines to let you know how I get along. I am  
well at present and all the rest of the boys I believe, well I  
shall have to get some better ink, and this is a very  
dirty looking paper but I think it will pass and if  
it don't just pass it in to the fire. The weather is very nice  
here at present, but do you mind the music that we hear out-  
here the Drum and fife are going all the time, and there is 4 or 5  
brass bands here so that we have plenty music. Last night  
for the first time our boys went on picket guard, they seem  
to like it very well, but I think it will soon get to  
be an old thing, we go to town most every day after horses so  
we have a nice ride. I got a letter from Eliza the other day and  
she said that they came very near getting hurt out did she cry or not  
I suppose she did

our 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieut. was thrown from his horse the other night and hurt but not seriously so I think he will soon be out around with us again. Stan sits here I suppose he don't allow folks as he did when old bop jumped at him. well I shall have to bring my scribbling to a close for it is getting dark. give my best respects to Orvil and Sarah and all enquiring friends and my best wishes to you this is all at present

Truly yours

L. Skeenck.