

Well the Fourth of July passed off here very quietly, nothing going on, only about a hundred Brass Bands kept a playing all day, and now and then the Batteries in front of Petersburg would send a shell far to the city to remind them the "Yanks" still lingered near And upon the whole I think it was the dullist Fourth I ever passed. John Simons came here in the afternoon and I went home with him and eat supper and what do you suppose constituted our supper Well I'll tell you, "Fresh Beef" Coffee Applesauce and "soft Bread" Bread being something quite new to us not having had any in about two months, Rufus Skeesuck was also with us, he is well as usual, The 37th & 38th Wis. Regts are about two miles from us, and I think I shall pay them a visit tomorrow, as they drafted Co which I once belonged to is in the 37th Well I heard they was going to draft again in Wis, and no one can get off this time by paying the "Pally sum" of \$500.00, and I hope it will make some of the stay at home come down and see how a "Knapsack" fits on their backs and also how "burnt powder" smells as the more men we have, the sooner the war will close And old Grant will need some more men before he can take Richmond. Please give my best respects to your father and also to Sarah's heart and please accept the same yourself and please write soon as convenient I am as ever your Friend J. W. Dick
Miss Abba S. Farber } Address Ambulance Corps
Brother town Wisc. } 2^d Division 2^d Army Corps
Washington D. C.

Camp near Petersburg Va.

Tuesday July 5th A.D. 1864

"Friend Abba:"

Having received a few lines from you in Abba's letter, and having some leisure time, I thought I would write you a few lines to let you know how I and the rest of the boys in the 36th "Regiment Wisconsin Volunteers" are getting along, so far as regards myself, I am enjoying very good health, as good I think as I have in the two past years, Grisel Bulman has been quite unwell for some time past, but is getting well again so he is doing duty in the Company again Brinks' Contemnent is well and tough as a "hust", O. A. Spauld you no doubt have heard from since I have, the last I heard from him he was in Washington D. C. and getting some better, but was quite weak then, but I am in hopes he will soon recover and again join me and I think he will as soon as he gets in to some place where he can rest and have his heart kept cool, as I think his sickness was brought on by laying in the ditches behind the fortifications where they could

not pitch their tents, but was obliged to lay in the
hot sun in the day time, and exposed to the cold
air by night. And at the time he left us at Golds
Harbor he was quite crazy, and I was told it took
two men to take care of him on the way to City Point.
He seemed to be troubled about the trade with Kellogg,
and said that he was trying to cheat him. "Benj Dick-
son and Arthur Adams are still missing," and we have
heard nothing from them since June 1st. "See Gahewage
and Lewis Mandersheid was at Alexandria the last
I heard of them and getting along finely." Since we came
here and joined our "Brigade" we have been in four
battles viz, June 1st North Anna Va, June 3rd
Cold Harbor Va, June 17th In Front of Petersburg Va,
June 22, four miles to the left of Petersburg Va, And
my regiment has lost quite heavily in wounded, killed
and missing. But as yet I can not give you the
accurate list. But my Co now numbers 24 musketeers,
and the regiment 276 musketeers. We have lost our Col,
and Lieut Col, Major and Adjutant. And I think
they have given us quite an "initiation", and we begin
to think ourselves almost "Veterans". And we can

show a flag as full of bullet holes, as the most of
the Regts who have not been out any longer than we
have. But for two weeks almost we have been in the
rear, doing nothing, only camp and "picket duty", and the
boys begin to feel very well, having had a good rest
and the first, to since we left Wm. As yet I haven't
received a scratch, but have had quite a number of
close calls, both by "shot" and "shell", but as good luck
would have it none touched me, but my comrade was
wounded at the last battle. We have been having
some of the warmest, yea hottest, weather I ever
see, and many have been sunstruck, and it is
also getting very dry, we not having had any
rain since June 1st and in many cases the troops
are suffering almost for good water. We have been
in camp here about four days, and expect if nothing
happens, and the "rebs" don't commence upon us, to
stay here quite a spell, and I hope we will, as
it is quite pleasant camping ground, and we have
our camp fixed up nice, a nice Barrack and my
tent pitched under it, and everything in ship shape
and my old woman is getting dinner.