

Rumor says you will go to Washington some
time in the course of a month or so, but
I don't think old Grant will let the old
Gen. go yet awhile. Our Gen. Hancock has
been offered the command of Washington
and its defenses. But will not take it
unless he can take his corps with him -
Well Ed. I have no more news as I know of
to write this time. I have just received, by
letter from Orlando stating one more of the
family had passed away from earthly scenes.
But stated no names, but as near as I can
find out it must mean Frank - But it does not
seem possible he to have passed away, another
victim to this unholy war. And yet the people
are called upon to furnish 500,000 more -
it seems to me as if there has already been
means and men furnished, enough to have
finished up this war, if they had been used
in the right way. There is a great fault somewhere, but I don't say so. But I have
my private opinion of the matter. We have
just finished loading a large boat with sick
and wounded, and still they continue to
come in from the front. The 10th Army Corps
is here and taking an active part. The 5th
Illinois is here and I suppose Martin Peters
is in it but as yet I have had no chance
to see him. But I must close with my best
wishes to you and your folks. Hoping to hear
from you soon. I remain yours,
John

Address as usual

P.S. you will be sure to write me frequently
this without passing the postage on you

Brownsville near Jones River
Tuesday Evening Aug 16th 1864
Friend Edgar

Your kind message came
safely to hand on the evening of the 11th Inst.
But as I did not feel much like writing then
I put off until the evening of the 13th. But in
afternoon of the 12th we got orders to pack up
and get ready to march in the evening, so you
see I had to put it off until now - I was
as ever much pleased to hear from one of my
schoolmates, and soldiermates, I might say
- and glad to hear you, and the rest of the
family was well. My health has not been very
good since July 27th still I have not missed a
days duty yet, but I think I should if I could
get excused from duty without taking medicine.
But as I feel better to day than I have in a long
time I hope to come out all right in a few days.
Our Corps (Hancocks old 2^d) went on a raid
the 27th of last month and done some hard
marching, which came near making me up,
on that raid we captured a piece of Artillery

and some prisoners, we came near where we are
now. Since we came here (Aug 14th) we have
drove the enemy about a mile, and captured
3 large mortars, and a good many prisoners
and among them the 64th Georgia, and several
stand of colors, and some battle flags, and fighting
still continues at intervals all along the line
and now and then a perfect roar of musketry,
accompanied with the chorus of cannons, and
now the gun boats come in heavy on the Rappahannock
tossing in their 200 pounders, and cutting down
trees in some places 3 feet through. We are just
13 miles from Richmond, but the road is so danger-
ous to travel we have to go slow and learn to
peddle. I was talking with a Rebel Scout yesterday
and he said they came from Petersburg in the after-
noon of the 12th, and also said that if the troops
that charged upon the works at Petersburg July 30th
had been white they would took Petersburg some-
- But said the negroes would stick their guns over
the works and fire, not showing their heads
at all, and the consequence was that they either
fired in to the ground or up in the air.

Well I have been driving an Ambulance since
Aug 14th and like it very well, especially
on a long march, and I think if I had not got
the chance to drive, I would have been completely played
out by this time, and I consider myself quite fortun-
ate in getting this place. I am the only one from
my Regt here - My Regt was in the fight on the
evening of the 14th and lost some, but fight in
comparison to the previous fight. My Colonel lost
his arm. My Major was shot through his nose
and the bullet lies now under his cheek bone.
Both have been promoted from Captains since
we came in to the field. My Captain, Ruben
Spindley of Pont du Lac was killed also. He was
the only one hurt in my Co., they are now in the
extreme front. Thus far our trip down here
has proved quite successful, whether it is merely
a raid or whether we will stop here and
hold the lines we now hold or not, I cant say.
The weather continues very hot, but as we was
blest with a light shower of rain last night
which cooled the air, some one laid the dust
which makes it quite pleasant driving.