

Camp Benton St. Louis Missouri
Wednesday April 9th A.D. 1862

Comdr. Allen.

I will most improve the
opportunity of Addressing you with Plea and I wish
to Inform you how I and the rest of the boys
are getting along I have got an awful cold and
have had ever since I came here but if a fellow
don't feel well there is no use of Whining Vet has
been trying to be sick as well as myself but I guess
neither one of us will make it - and Vet is on guard
today - and it is a plaguey cold day today too
We have curious weather here one day cold and
the next day warm and the next day hot
and besides we have plaguey cold nights and
mornings but the farmers are doing their Springs
work I saw a man sowing wheat today cold
as it is and I saw a man planting potatoes
but I guess that it will be quite a while
before ~~you~~ the Wisconsin farmers can commence
their Springs work We have not got our Horses
yet - and I understand that there has been no
 requisition made yet - for Horses for this
Regiment, but I know nothing how true it is

But I hope that we shall get our Horses
and Equipments soon but we have got our
Swords and miserable things they are too
Regular old broken knives and are not worth
having I heard today that we are like to be
sent back to Wisconsin to guard Prisoners but
I know nothing how true it is but the order
now is for us to remain here for the present
When we first came here there was about 30000
troops here but they have pretty near all gone there
is only about 6000 troops here now and pretty
much all of them are Cavalry the 1st-2nd &
3rd Wis Cavalrys are all here and the 17th left
this morning Henry Joung was in that
Regt and the 3rd Wis Cavalrys have all got
to be equipped and drilled here yet so if we
leave here we know nothing where we are going
They have Pickets stationed out around here for
ten or 12 miles I suppose some of us will have
come to that pretty soon We have got a very small
camp ground only six miles around it thats all
and besides we are incamped in a very pleasant
grove and about 10 or 15 rods from the Amphitheater
which is a very pleasant place but we have
miserable water here to use it is the
Mississippi River water brought here through
pipes and brought about 5 miles too at that

We have to be very careful of what we eat
here for we are just as apt to eat a Dose
of Poison as anything else there has been a
number of Soldiers poisoned here but none
of our Regiment have been poisoned yet

We are in Tents now and such Darned things
I don't like them not a bit, I hope that they
will order us into Barracks for there is lots
of vacant ones now Darn the Tents it
makes me think of a Hogs nest, and no place
to keep anything without being messed up

Well I guess I have written about all that I
can think of at present so I'll dry up for
this time by saying that I hope to hear
from you soon my best wishes to you
and the rest of the folks and remember
me to Grandmother & Good Bye

D. M. Johnson
to
Ship Abba L. Fowler

Please Address

Laramie M. Johnson
Company A 2nd Regt.
Wis Vol Cavalry
St. Louis, Missouri



A. McLean Lith.

VIEW OF THE FAIR GROUNDS,
ST. LOUIS, MO.

Cor. Third & Pine Sts.

2010.022.443