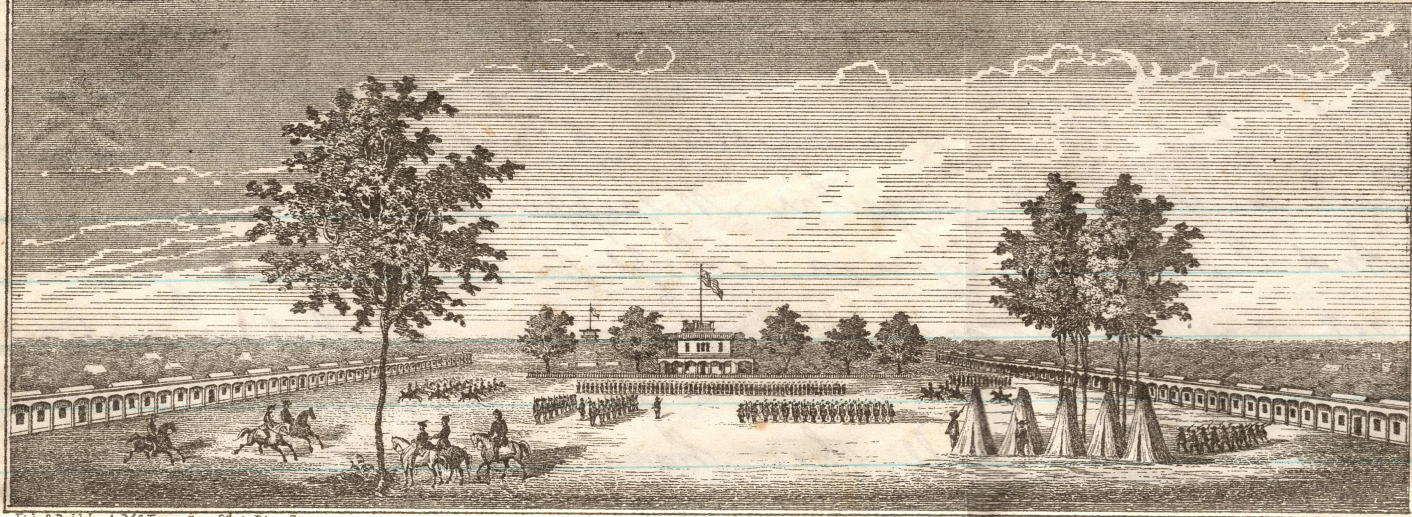




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CAMP BENTON (St. Louis).  
Looking East.

April 6<sup>th</sup> 1862

My Friend Ed!

As, I have a few moments of leisure now I will improve them by writing you a few lines to let you know I am still in the land of the living and enjoying very good health for an soldier like me. All of the boys are in good health and full of the old herry as ever there is five or six sick in our Company and 25 or 30 sick in the regiment. I write to you this time and I am in hopes I shall soon hear from you although I believe you owe me a letter. I should like to know what I've done to you that you dont write to me if I have done anything I will apologize and keep apologizing as long as you wish, so write soon and let me know all of the news. Well here I am in the land I have so often heard sung about- called Dixie. The above picture is a very correct one I tell you. And we are in tents close by the flag you see.

in the background we are in a grove just to the left of it It is the prettiest place I have seen yet But we have the regular Mississippi river water to drink And I will give you a receipt to make it so you can get a specimen of it Take one quart of poor water one quart of quick sand one quart of clay and mix well and you will then have some such water as we have to use I think as the warm weather advances we will have a good deal of sickness among our Wis boys There is four regiments of Wis boys here now and two batteries of Artillery There was two boys in the 17<sup>th</sup> regt. died within the two last days, I am now sitting by the side of my tent and the sun is pouring down as hot as it does in Wis in June, And the grass is up enough so the cattle gets verry good picking We are in the Libbey tents 17 in a tent and are having good times We have got our swords and uniform hats and I expect we will get the rest of our arms and horses in a few days There has been a good many soldiers in camp here but there has been six Regts. called away in the past week There has been two or three picket guard fired on since we came here but there has ~~not~~ been only one killed. I heard the Commander in Chief { Gen. Halleck } said if they dont cease firing on the guards, He will let his army loose and clean out <sup>this</sup> state and I am in hopes he will There is <sup>enough</sup> Wis boys here to clean this state out, I was talking with a man the other day

a citizen and he said that this City St Louis was  
more than  $3/4$  the Secesh if they dared to show it  
And still the stars and stripes float over them. I have  
heard guns all the morning over to the fort and  
I do not know what it means but I think it  
must be they have heard some good news We are  
in the sight of the Miss river and can see the  
smoke of the boats as they pass. We was reviewed  
the other day by the Governor of Mis. Hearney And  
it came of on the plantation of Gen. Price. Who  
once reigned here with his niggers in all his glory  
But I think his chance for it again is very slim  
The 10<sup>th</sup> Mis Cavalry is here and Steve Nicholas is here  
now and is the same old Steve looks as fat and  
hearty as ever We have to come right down to our  
drill now Viz. 8 o'clock A.M. Company drill 10 o'clock  
A.M. Battalion Drill 12 o'clock A.M. Dress parade 2 P.M.  
clock Company Drill 3 o'clock Battalion drill So you  
see we do not have a great deal of time to waste  
I sent you a paper day before yesterday and  
when you write let me know which you got first  
the letter or the paper You must excuse my poor  
writing and if you can read it you will please  
to answer it I write in haste so I am cooking  
for our squad to day I think I will make a  
pretty good cook if I keep on And I am very  
good at washing to. I must close my nonsense

for this time hoping to do better in the  
future Please to give my best respects to all  
of your folks and my love to all good looking  
girls. I remain as ever your friend

" J. W. Dick

To Edgar M. Dick Esq

Direct to

Company A 2nd Regiment W.V.C.  
Camp Benton

St Louis Missouri