

Headquarters 9th N. Y. Vols.
Lexington, Ky, April 5th 1863

Dear Mother & Friends

Once more I am happy to find myself engaged in writing ^{to} you which I have wished to do before too day, but have not found an opportunity until now. I wrote you one week ago yesterday (I think) while at Cincinnati, O, while waiting for the Regt to arrive and join them. It came in there the next day (Sunday) at M, and stoped just long enough to eat dinner which was provided for them. I was sorry to see them quite so soon as I had been acquainted with several Eastern men that were living there and was enjoying myself first rate but I fell in and we crossed the River into Ky when we took the cars (freight cars) for Lexington Ky and arrived here the next day at 2 o'clock P.M. we came very slow as the Train was long and heavy and there was a great deal of up grade. We left the Depot and passed through the City and encamped about a mile from it in a beautiful Grove the neatest & pleasanest we have now

had The weather has been fine and warm
so we need no fire although the nights are quite
cool yet but we shal soon have it as warm
as we like The surrounding Country is beautiful
being well and highly cultivated with here
and there in a grove of trees will be seen a
large and splendid Mansion! It is much unlike
Va and the soldiers are highly pleased with
the change and the prospects before them
although there is a good chance to see as much
fighting as when in Va You cannot imagine
~~how~~ what a change there has been in the
feelings of the Troops in regard to the war
since I left them at Falmouth Va But at that
time they were disheartened and did not care
how it went if they could only get out of it
Now every heart is light and each one tries
to ~~be~~ ~~the~~ ~~other~~ excel the other in his
appearance as a soldier We have had much to
do in fixing up our Houses (which are of boards
from the fences) and getting ourselves and
our equipments cleaned up for inspection as we
we have had no help there since we came here
Henry Clays Residence is only 1/2 miles from here
His Monument is in plain sight I intend to
visit both this P.M. I think if he was alive now
that Kentucky would be under different circum-
stances from what she is at the present time

and the presence of the P. A. C. would not
of her needed Just before I left Cincinnati
I met one of my old Hills River friends
James Gilkerson, you have his picture taken
with mine when at W. R. he had just come
from there and was on his way to Louisville
Ky. I imagine you are having a good sap
day I wish I could just step in and taste some
new sugar but I am too far from you to think
of it I am anxious to hear from you yet I do
not expect to for some time I shall write
after if we remain in camp and hope
to hear as often from some one of you
The boys of Co. I. were surprised as well as highly
pleased to see me my health seems now
better and I am so fat I can hardly see out
of my eyes Please remember me to all
inquiring friends and tell them I am quite
content in my old Kentucky Home
I am not sure whether Cash is out here or not
but expect he is somewhere the Corps is
scattered nearly all over the State according
to acts But I must close for now
write as soon as you get this
Much love All

Your affectionate son & brother
Remember me to my little
Niece if you please
Chas W Wilcox