Dear Friends:

As I am on picket to-day and have nothing to busy myself about this pleasant morning will write you a short word at sometime. We are guarding the road on either side running north towards Richmond. Lee's army is quite an easy job but rests to trouble us. During the whole day I only stand on the post 2 hours from 12 till two this morning. The night was quite chilly but slept well, with a cartridge bag and a pillow & two blankets over ahead of the foot of a big maple tree. I with two others went out
In Camp Near Lancaster Ky. May 16th 1863

Dear Friends:

As I am on picket to-day and have nothing to busy myself about this pleasant morning will you write you a sheet & send it sometime. We are guarding the rode or Pike rather running north towards Richmond & Lexington it is quite an easy job no rebs to trouble us During the whole 24 I only stand on the post 2 hours from 12 till two this morning.

The night was quite chilly but I slept well with a cartridge box for a pillar & two blankets over me spread at the foot of a big maple tree. I with two others went out
to a farm house close by our
host a good natured hickory
man came to the door of the
kindly & as & asked us in. We
breakfast we sat down to the
table & the old gentleman asked a
blessing after which we satisfied
our hungry appetites. Tooned
up to miss on the table of the plate
that was all that was wanted to
make ou a good breakfast. In
the first place corn bread just
like our indian bread only not
as good & much thicker & harder
was pared round neat coffee
then a glass of sweet milk or
buttermilk most of the family
took buttermilk while we
soldiers preferred sweet milk.
The lady remarked that soldiers
 seldom liked buttermilk while
we were preferred it to sweet milk.
to a farm house close by our post a good natured looking man came to the door spoke kindly to us & asked us in to breakfast we sat down to the table & the old gentlemen asked a blessing after which we satisfied our hungry appetites. I seemed to miss on the table NE potatoes that was all that was wanted to make out a good breakfast. In the first place corn bread just like our indian [?] only not so good & much thicker & harder, was passed round next coffee then a glass of sweet milk or buttermilk most of the family took buttermilk while we soldiers prefered sweet milk The lady remarked that soldiers seldom liked buttermilk while we here preferred it to sweet milk
Then the negro woman came with a plate of hot biscuit, ham again with corn bread, then milk, coffee. Justice everywhere in Py. The negro servants wait on the table as attentively as at any hotel north. The butter was very poor. I have never seen any offered for sale on the tables of the richest that would be called hardly edible in 1876. It is as white as hard buttermilk not half washed out and has no good butter taste. Then when put on the table in the butter plate it is sprinkled over with salt as they sprinkle crushed sugar on doughnuts.

I forgot to tell you they have here a sort of gravy to eat with their ham and corn bread made Johnnycake with butter, spice &c.
then the negrow women came with a plate of hot biscuit. than again with corn bread than milk, coffee. I notice evrywhere in Ky. the negrow servants wait on the table as attentively as at any hotel north The butter was very poor I have never seen any offered for sale on on [sic] the table of the richest that would be called hardly eatable in NH. It is as white as lard the buttermilk not half washed out and has no good butter taste. Then when put on the table in the butter plate it is sprinkled over with salt as they sprinkle they crushed sugar on dough nuts I forgot to tell you they have here a sort of gravy to eat with their ham & corn bread made I should think with butter spice & c.
The conversation turned upon the war. The lady seemed to fear that Morgan would make another raid into this part of the state we held here and Bragg had orders last night to be ready to move at ten minutes notice with blankets &c. &c. &c. of cartridges &c.

I came this way she would be likely to meet with some obstructions before she got here. Well said she, "I wish you would tell any one of them!"
The lady thought Bragg had got badly whipped but the old gentleman said the enemy got a worse whipping than we and the woman wished so but was afraid we had met with a greater loss than we supposed.

Since they were strong union they served two gentlemen only the 36th soldiers of the 3rd Reg. were. We find a great many good people here the main sentiment is much greater here than at Mt. Sterling away. There on the regiment there is much passing.
The conversation turned upon the war. The old lady seemed to fear that Morgan would make another raid into this part the state we told her our Div. had orders last night to be ready to move at ten minutes notice with blankets 60 rounds of cartridges & 3 days rations so If Morgan came this way he would be likely to meet with some obstructions before he got here. Well said she “I wish you would kill evry one of them.” The lady thought Hooker had got badly whipped but the old gentlemen said the enemy got a worse whipping than our army the women wished so but was affraid we had met with a greater loss than we supposed.

I see they were strong union they remarked how gentelemanly the soldiers of the NH Reg. were. We find a great many good people here the union sentiment is much greater here than Mt. Sterling way. We are on the pike going directly to the village & consequently there is much passing about the same as from the Bridge to

May 22d I got a letter from James he is well also Franky but Emma is not very [?] yet he thinks of sending her to Hillsboro this summer 8 PM we have just received orders to march tomorrow morning

We are going down towards Somerset near where the rebs are It has been a remarkably hot day to-day I hear that our over coats got home safe I am glad You can see how a soldiers coat looks

Don’t that pocket in the right side look [?] What was made for convenience not for looks