

May 22^d 1863
Camp Near Lancaster N.Y. May 16th 1863
I got a letter from James he is
well like usually but I am not
well yet in think of writing for
you

Dear Friends:

As I am on picket to-day and have nothing to busy myself about this pleasant morning will write you a sheet & send it sometime. We are guarding the road or pike rather running north towards Richmond & Lexington it is quite an easy job no reb. 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 pillow & two blankets over spread at the foot of a big maple tree. I with two others went out

not returned on the 16th morning

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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

Don't that breakfast in the night and I wish highly
 that was made for convenience
 our necessities got some soft bread that
 I was looking for but they had that
 to a farm house close by our
 host 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 gentleman asked a
 blessing after which we satisfied
 our hungry appetites. I seemed
 to miss on the table of E potatoes
 that was all that was wanted to
 make out a good breakfast. In
 the first place corn bread just
 like our indian bannocks 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 preferred sweet milk
 The lady remarked that soldiers
 seldom liked buttermilk while
 we here preferred it to sweet milk

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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 preferred sweet milk The lady remarked that soldiers seldom liked buttermilk while we here preferred it to sweet milk

more when the negro one of his kind
Went down towards dinner
then the negro woman came
with a plate of hot biscuit,
ham again with corn bread
than milk, coffee. I notice
everywhere in Ky. 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 or the tables of the richest that
would be called hardly eatable
in N. H. 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
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

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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 ^{old} lady seemed to fear that Morgan would make another raid into this part of the state we told her our Div. had orders last night to be ready to move at ten minutes notice with blankets & 40 rounds of cartridges & 3 days rations. If Morgan came this way he would be likely to meet with some obstructions before he got here. Will said she "I wish you would kill every one of them" The lady thought Hooker had got badly whipped but the old gentleman said the enemy got a worse whipping than our army. The woman wished so but was afraid we had met with a greater loss than we supposed. Since they were strong union they would know gentlemen only the ~~17th~~ soldiers of the 17th 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

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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 22^d 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