

My dear friend
Please say to your mother and brother
I hope they will write me
Camp Near Winchester Ky. Apr. 26th

1863

Dear Friend:

I sat myself this
pleasant Sunday afternoon at the
foot of a big walnut tree and will
try and write you a short letter, as
I promised on leaving Hillsboro.

Four weeks ago to-day as our long
train, loaded with the merry bops
of the 11th was plodding ^{long} the Penn.
Centrale R.R. I thought, after eating
a hearty meal of the luxuries you sent
me, I must as soon as we got in
Camp fulfill my promise.

I have been used to penciling my
letters so it comes unhandy to write
with a pen; but I will try and
make what little I do write intelli-
-gible trusting you will excuse all

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Dear Friend:

I seat myself this pleasant Sunday afternoon at the foot of a big walnut tree and will try and write you a short letter as I promised on leaving Hillsboro.

Four weeks ago to-day as our long train, loaded with the merry boys of the 11th was plodding along the Penn. Central RR. I thought, after eating a hearty meal of the luxuries you sent me, I must as soon as we got in Camp fulfill my promise.

I have been used to penciling my letters so it comes unhandy to write with a pen; but I will try and make what little I do write intelligible trusting you will excuse all

must now be making up my mind to
that some of my kind make it really
better than anything we have for making
mistakes. I am enjoying excellent
health now. Have never been to
the Surgeon's call, except a few days
at Mt. Sterling since I enlisted.
Then I had the mumps quite lightly.
Was out around camp every day
as usual and soon got over them.
I am enjoying myself first-rate
here in old Kentucky it is such
a splendid country the weather is
so pleasant at this season of the
year that camp life is quite different
from what it was during the dreary
months we were on the Rappahannock.
- Here I drop my pen & book jump
up for I hear roars of laughter from
the camp of the 51st N.Y. They have
got one of their boys on a big blanket
and as many as can get hold toss
him up in the air. Rather boyish sport

you own
become in your
friend and old
M. J. Smith

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mistakes. I am enjoying excellent health now. Have never been to the Sergeons call, except a few days at Mt. Sterling since I enlisted. Then I had the mumps quite lightly Was out around Camp evry day as usual and soon got over them.

I am enjoying myself first-rate here in old Kentucky it is such a splindid country the weather is so pleasant at this season of the year that camp life is quite different from what it was during the dreary months we were on the Rappahannock

-Here I drop my pen & book jump up for I hear roars of laughter from the Camp of the 51st NY. They have got one of there boys on a big blanket and as many as can get hold toss him when the air Rather boyish sport

perhaps you think, but anything
for fun. Now they have got a young
negro & are tossing him up he is
a little scared and the convulsions he
involuntary turns are doubtless
more laughable to us than agreeable
to him. We enjoy ourselves now
as well as if at home. While in
camp we have no hard labor to
perform; We drill only about three
hours each day (except Saturday Sunday
we have no drills) the rest of the day
we have to read write and do ^{what} else
we choose. We get the Cincinnati
Morning papers about four o'clock
so we are well on for news.

From by the last papers Banks
has been pounding the Rebs. beau-
tifully. Probably the boys in the
16th Regt. have heard the whizzing

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perhaps you think, but anything for fun. Now they have got a young negrw & are tossing him up he is a little scared and the somersets he involuntary turns are doubtless more laughable to us than agreeable to him. We enjoy ourselves now as well as if at home. While in camp we have no hard labor to perform; We drill only about three hours each day (except Saturday Sunday we have no drills) the rest of the day we have to read write and do what else we choose. We get the Cincinnati Morning papers about four o'clock so we are well on for news.

Is see by the last papers Banks has been pounding the Rebs. beautifully. Probably the boys in the 16th Regt. have heard the whizzing

and the other boys in the 16th probably you
never quit either. Please write me how they are
little balls buzzing about their ears
and the howling shells ~~and~~ flying
carelessly about. But they will
have the satisfaction of writing
home that they whipped the enemy
in their first battle; while we had
to acknowledge we got terrible repulsed.
But we done all that men could do
if the Generals had all done their
part as well as we done ours we
should have been victorious. I often
thought, ^{it hard} as I stood on picket with no
fire some many nights to look across
the river & see the rousing fires the rebel
pickets had. then I would scuttlingly
think perhaps my warm clothes good.
rubber blanket & hovelock are better than
~~those~~ old smocking rebel fires. I have
written to Frank, Charles & Henry of the
16th Reg & received a letter from Charles &
Henry etc. I am anxious to hear from Frank

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little balls buzzing about their ears and the howling shells flying carelessly about. But they will have the satisfaction of writing home that they whipped the enemy in their first battle; while we had to acknowledge we got terrible repulsed. But we done all that men could do if the General's had all done their part as well as we done ours we should have been victorious. I often thought it hard as I stood on picket with no fire some snowy nights to look across the river & see the rousing fires the rebel pickets had. then I would exultingly think perhaps my warm clothes good rubber blanket & havelock are better than those old smocking rebel fires. I have written to Frank, Charles & Henry of the 16th Reg & received a letter from Charles C. Henry M. I am anxious to hear from Frank and the other boys in the 16th. Probably you hear of quite often. Please write me how they are getting along. Please except my sincere thanks for the cakes & meat you sent me The cakes were very nice and the meat so much better than anything we have for rations that as one of my tent mates said it really melted in our mouths Hoping to hear from you soon I remain your friend and old pupil W. J. Templeton

Please say to your mother am greatly obliged for those pickles they were very nice & quite a rarity.