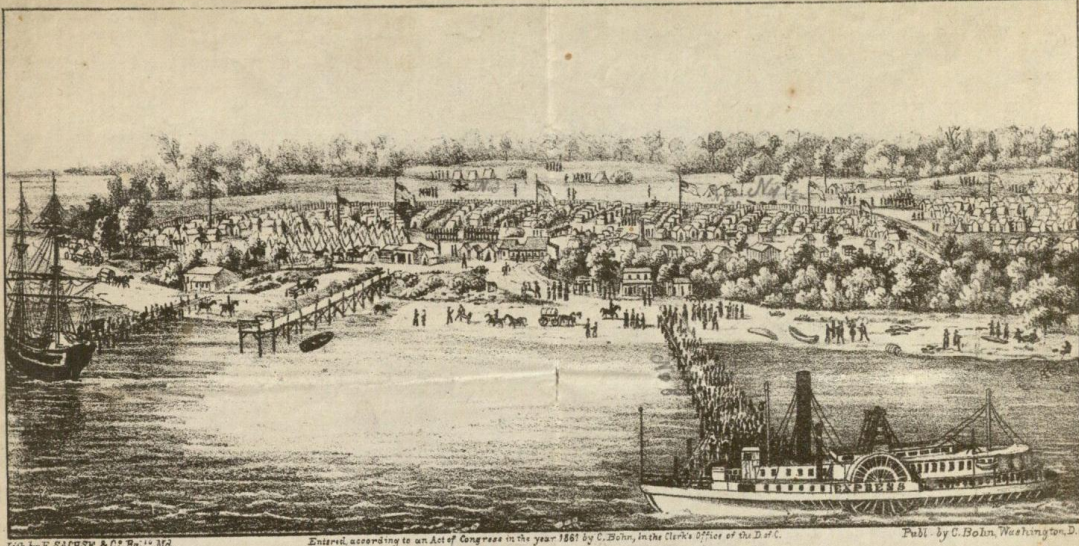




ENCAMPMENT OF U. S. TROOPS AT NEWPORT NEWS, VA.

Newport News Va. Mar. 8th 1868

Dear Friends at Home:

No. 1

I bot. this sheet down to the periodical store at the Landing last night, thinking that as it is a very good picture of Newport News, you would like to see it. This picture shows the possession of the troops as they were last summer just before McClellan's evacuating the Peninsula. Of course there are some changes in the position of the different camps. I have numbered some places of interest. You notice two trees standing alone, have marked them No. 1 these two trees are at the left of our Reg. "Luncheon Market" beyond these trees, which are very tall & straight & three feet through at the ground and the most patchy pine woods I ever saw. I was on guard last Wednesday night my beat was at the foot of one of these trees. I read No. 4 just as the sun was going down Wednesday eve. at the foot of the tree. It was cold Wednesday & night was the coldest we have seen here while on guard we built a big fire at the

PAGE 1

Newport News Va. Mar. 8th 1863

No 6

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I bot this sheet down to the periodical store at the landing last night, thinking that as it is a very good picture of Newport News you would like to see it. This picture shows the possession of the troops as they wer last summer just before McClellan's evacuating the Peninsula. Of course there are some changes in the possession of the different camps. I have numbered some places of interest. You notice two trees standing alone, have marked them No. 1 these two trees are at the left of our Reg. "Quincy Market" beyond these trees, which are very tall & straight & three feet throug at the ground & the most pitchy pine wood I ever saw. I was on gard last Wednesday night my beat was at the foot of one of these trees. I read No. 4 just as the sun was going down Wednesday eve at the foot of the tree. It was cold Wednesday & night was the coldest we have seen here. while on gard we built a big fire at the

foot of the No. 4. there was a crack in the tree, & the pitch gum had
oozed out which burned splendidly. I was surprised to find
in the morning on taking my beat that the fire had bur-
rowed a big hole in to the tree as large as a quaker's tail.
It seems funny that a green ^{timber} tree would burn, but we find it
will burn nice there being so much pitch in it. No 2 is about
the possession of Co. D. street & rows of tents. No 3 good sample of an A
tent. breastworks, ditch in front, created & made by our
forces last summer. space between breastworks & woods our
camp, parade ground. The scenes between about the
wharf are very natural the landings, ships & steamers
unloading all look just as we see them every day.
Landing No 4 where we disembarked & where our boxes come.
The steamer Express we see every few days. I helped to
unload her one day. Received No 4 as I said Wednesday
night was sorry that paper cost so much. I would ^{send} my letters
in to the Leander village when I could. So Skewell will not get the

PAGE 2

foot of tree No 4. there was a crack in the tree, & the pitch gum had oozed out which burned splendidly. I was surprised to find in the morning on taking my beat that the fire had burned a big hole in the tree as large as a Quaker pail. It seems funny that a green pine tree would burn. but we find it will burn nice there being so much pitch in it. No. 2 is about the possession of Co D street & rows of A tents. No. 3 good sample of an A tent..... brestworks, ditch in front, created & made by our forces last summer. space between brestworks & our camp, parade ground. The scenes about the wharf are very natural the landings, ships & steamers unloading all [?] just as we see them every day. Landing No 4 where we disembarked & where our boxes came The steamer Express we see every few days. I helped to unload her one day. I received No 4 as I said Wednesday night was sorry that paper cost so much. I would send my letters in to the lower village when I could. So Newell will not get the

mailing I shall send A. Harpers which has a grand
picture of Payday in the army Mrs. Choate sent it to me
& I think it too good to be lost. I received a letter from James
yesterday he and the children are all well One from Mrs. C.
& James & a report of the Lowell High School, which I sent
you with some pictures last Wednesday. James said
he froze his ears carrying papers one cold day. Got a letter
from C. McIntosh last night & one enclosed from
Martin they were near A. & were well & enjoying themselves
quite ^{much} Frank they say is getting better. I should think at least
if I could not get a mail but once a week. Please write me
if Frank is a sergeant I am thinking you wrote me so
I have never received Annas & Eds letters. Tell them to try it
again & if I do not receive it will then take the will for the
deed. Suppose James M. has received my answer. Please
write how the Conscription takes up in Hillsboro. Tell the
"Stay at Homes" we want all the help we can get, niggers and
all. It is no worse for them to come out here & help sustain our
government and currency (should like to see some) our free schools
& our just & equitable laws than it is for us. Because there has
been shameful mismanagement & gross corruption among
Officials in high places. That is no reason why we should
give up the righteous cause we are engaged in our liberties are
worth just as much now as they ever were. I am glad the "cat"
has passed. It will start some off to the Dr. before sunrise.
To-day is warm & pleasant as lively a day as ever I saw one

PAGE 3

mailing I shall send A Harpers which has a grand picture of Payday in the army Mrs. Choate sent it to me & I think it too good to be last. I received a letter from James yesterday he & the children are all well One from Mrs C. & James & a report of the Lowell High School. which I sent you with some pictures last Wednesday. James said he froze his ears carrying papers one cold day. Got a letter from C. McClintock last night & one enclosed from Martin they were near NO. & were well & enjoying themselves quite well. Frank they say is getting better. I should think it hard if I could not get a mail but once a week. Please write me if Frank is a sargent. I am thinking you wrote me so I have never received Anna's & Ed. letters. Tell them to try it again & if I do not receive it will then take "the will for the deed. Suppose James M. has received my aswer. Please write how the Conscription takes up in Hillsboro. Tell the "stay at homes" we want all the help we can get, nigers & all. It is no worse for them to come out here & help sustain our government our currency (should like to see some) our free schools & our just & equitable laws then it is for us. Because there has been shameful mismanagement & gross corruption among officials in high places. That is no reason why we should give up the righteous caus we are engaged in our liberties our worth just as much now as they ever were. I'm glad the "end" has passed it will start some off to the Dr. before sunrise To-day is warm & pleasant as lively a day as ever I saw our

Chaplain preached a short but excellent sermon to-day. We have
a good Chaplain. I guess guess from what I can hear he is the
only Chaplain in our brigade who will not get drunk. more
kills as many men as the Rebels here the privates can't get any but
the officers some of them make hearts of themselves. The Dr. U. Chaplain
has taken a sketch ^{home} of our camp at Bear D. & I hear there are pictures
printed from it perhaps you may see it. I forgot to say I saw in
a Journal & that the 16th N.Y. had left their camp near N.Y. & gone
off on an expedition or perhaps Charles will see some fighting
for which he was ready for any time. I am going to tell him
if he had been into that scrape over the river he would not be
so keen for a fight now. I am glad to see the boys are in such
good spirits and their pluck & good courage will carry one through
most any thing. Monday one month to-day since we got
on board the cars at Galveston. It has been a short month I have
enjoyed myself first best. We have got into a first rate brigade
our Brigadier is a pretty good fellow but he likes good brandy & a
word lot of it. But he is no tyrant as some of ours are. We did not
like his bluster the morning before the fight at D. he said all he
wanted was to follow him ^{any one} when he led us on to the field
he should be skulking behind a brick house & followed out go are
you cowards you boys men. We halted there for we understood
him to say halt, for if he had kept still we should have gone
on in good shape. We understood after that, he ^{had} ordered the 61st
to charge on us if we turned back but we went up in
better shape than that Reg. did. To-day is very pleasant & spring
like the grass has begun to start a little. I noticed a farmer out
beyond the picket lines last week digging up his garden he said
he could potatoes had ought to have been planted three weeks
ago. A battery is out drilling on the parade ground they have just
being. bang, bang, bang, bang, bang, bang. sounds a little like Frederic
bang. I saw Patrick Dutton yesterday he is fat as I am. I am
going up to his camp one of these days want to see him about 82 ^{months}
I suppose he will be in N.Y. a night of cancanes, disconsions &
chattering & planning for tomorrow morning battle many the
right breast of the soldiers cause he wanted I suppose the cap has begun
to rain some & there will be sugar for town meeting. If the weather is
unusually warm in N.Y. as it is here. I should suppose it good
sugar weather. That rain storm you spoke of did snow a little here
at the rain soon melted it

Chaplain preached a short but excellent sermon to-day. We have a good Chaplain. I guess guess [sic] from what I can hear he is the only Chaplain in our brigade who will not get drunk. Rum kills as many men as the Rebels here the privates cant get any but the officers some of them make beasts of themselves The 3s-Mass Chaplain has taken a sketch home of our camp at Near F & I hear there are pictures printed from it perhaps you may see it. I forgot to say I saw in a journal & that the 16 NH. had left their Camp near NO & gone off on an expedition or perhaps Charles will see some fighting for which he was ready for any time. I am going to tell him if he had been into that scrape over the river he would not be so keen for a fight now. I am glad to see the boys are in such good spirits out their pluck & good courage will carry one through most anything. Monday One month to-day since we got on board the cars at Falmouth. It has been a short month I have enjoyed myself first best. We have gotten into a first rate brigade our Brigadeer is a pretty good fellow but he likes good brandy & a good lot of it. but he is no tyrant as some Gens are We did not like his bluster the morning before the fight at F he said all he wanted was for us to follow him but when he lead us onto the field field [sic] he skulked behind a brick house & hollered out go on you cowards you \$300 men we halted them for we understood him to say halt. If he had kept still we should have gone on in good shape We understood that he had ordered the 51st Penn to charge on us if we turned back but we went up in better shape than that Reg. did. To-day is very pleasant & spring like the grass has begun to start a little. I noticed a farmer beyond the picket lines last week digging up his garden he said he said potatoes have had to been planted there three weeks ago. A battery is out drilling on the parade ground they have just firing bang bang bang bang bang bang. Sounds a little like Fredericksburg I saw Frank Dutton yesterday he is fat as I am. I am going up to his camp one of these days want to see him about eighty-two months worth I suppose he might well be in NH a night of caucuses, excursions & scheming & planning for tomorrow morning battle many the right prevail & the soldiers cause be sustained I suppose the sap has begun to run some & there will be sugar for the town meeting. If the weather is correspondingly warm in NH as is here. I should suppose a good sugar weather that snow storm you spoke of did snow a little here but the rain soon melted it.