

Camp + Brigade
Thursday April 23rd 1863

My Dear Sister

Here I am again out on picket having
a very pleasant time of it. This is the first tour
of picket duty that our Brigade has been on since
since we have been at Shiloh. but what we had
had weather all the week. It rained a little night
before last, but it soon cleared off and we have
had pleasant weather all the while since.

Every thing has been very quiet since we have
been out here until to day. We have been hearing
canonading out at the fort this morning & we have
not yet ascertained the cause, there is a Regiment
of Cavalry between us and the Rebels and I suppose
the firing we heard was between the Cavalry out post
I have been doing very well since I wrote you
last. We are getting along smoothly and quietly.
I had a very handsome present made me a few days
ago by the Officers of the Regiment. I will give you
five guesses and let you a new Poop against a new coat;
to be paid when the war ends, that you cannot guess
what it may. Stop now and write down your guesses
For fear you may look down below and see what
it is. I will turn over a new leaf -

It was a pair of Heavy Silk Spurs with Silver Rivets
they cost thirty five Dollars. I prize them very
highly not so much for their real value, as a mark
of respect and esteem from the Officers.

We are evidently on the eve of some great movement
but what it is, it is difficult to tell. Some eight
or ten thousand troops have been ordered up from
Mobile, and all the troops here are being put
in a condition for active operations in the field.
All extra baggage has been sent away, and
all surplus tents have been turned in and
sent off. The men now have only six tents
to cover hundred men. I have thought for a
long time, and I think so now stronger than ever
that the great battle of the war is to be fought
by Bragg's Army in Tennessee. Every thing
goes to prove, that the Rebels are massing all
their troops in Tenn. evidently for the purpose
of giving Gen Bragg a fight for the possession of
the State. Their great object seems to be
to keep the people of the State from making a
crop. They destroy all farming utensils
and take all the mules, Horses, Corn, Bacon

and every thing, be necessary for the support
of the farmers, on every farm within their
reach. You must not be surprised if you
hear steering news from here soon.

I have just now received a letter from you dated
April 13th; only ten days from home. It made a
good trip. It is so pleasant to have a letter only
ten days from home. I am glad to hear that
you are getting along so well with your farm.
I have much more confidence in your success
that I would have in our friend Josh. You
state in your letter that you have a good stand. That
I think is a very essential part toward making
a good crop. It makes my mouth water
to think of the Radishes, Lettuce, Cabbage that
you have at home. We have nothing to eat,
here now but meat and Bread and I get very
tired of it sometimes. I crave vegetables
all the time. Willey Ellis & Jack Craddock I suppose
have a fine time of it at home. Male folks
to girls have a good time of it, don't they!
If they don't lick sharp the Conscript Officer
will get them. You state that it is smart

think I was coming home again. Nothing
would have me better, but for me to get home
now, it is impossible, unless I have some dis-
honour, and I had rather never go home
at all, than to go that way. I have given up
all hopes of getting home until the present
Campaign is over. I would like very much to
see my dear friends, but there is no chance for
that at present; I know that Mother is very
anxious to see him, and if there was any possi-
ble chance to get a full week for him, I would
make such a point. He is in good health and
getting along very well. He has
had your message from home. He has not
been of any interest. I would have been very little
trouble for him to have called by to see you before
he left. I don't think that he knows much about my
body except a few general matters in relation
I am glad to hear that Julia has succeeded in
procuring a substitute for her. I will certainly
be a good subject to Mrs. Veldering does suit
his disposition. By the way how does my dear
along since Jim has returned to his Regiment

Dear Mr. Pelt

Wester

Picket Camp 4th Brigade
Thursday April 23rd, 1863.

My Dear Bettie:

Here I am again out on picket having a very pleasant time of it. This is the first tour of picket duty that our Brigade has been on since we have been at Shelbyville, but what we had bad weather all the week. I rained a little night before last, but it soon cleared off and we have had pleasant weather all the while since.

Every thing has been very quiet since we have been out here until today. We have heard heavy cannonading out at the front this morning, but we have not yet ascertained the cause. There is a Regiment of Cavalry between us and the Yanks and I suppose the firing we heard was between the Cavalry out-post. I have been doing very well since I wrote you last. We are getting along smoothly and quietly. I had a very handsome present made me a few days ago by the officers of the Regiment. I will give you five guesses and bet you a new dress against a new coat to be paid when the war ends that you cannot guess what it was. Stop now and write down your guesses. For fear you may look down below and see what it is. I will turn over a new leaf. It was a pair of Heavy Gilt Spurs with Silver Rowels. They cost thirty-five dollars. I prize them very highly not so much for their real value as a mark of respect and esteem from the officers.

We are evidently on the eve of some great movement, but what it is, it is difficult to tell. Some eight or ten thousand troops have been ordered up from Mobile and all the troops here are being put in a condition for active operations in the field. All extra baggage has been sent away and all surplus tents have been turned in and sent off. The men now have only six tents to every hundred men. I have thought for a long time and I think so now stronger than ever that the great battle of the war is to be fought by Bragg's Army in Tennessee. Every thing goes to prove that the Yanks are massing all their troops in Tenn., evidently for the purpose of giving Gen. Bragg a fight for the possession of the State. Their great object seems to be to keep the people of the State from making a crop. They destroy all farming utensils and take all the mules, horses, corn, bacon, and every thing else necessary for the support of the farmers, on every farm within their reach. You must not be surprised if you hear stirring news from here soon.

I have just received a letter from you dated April 13th; only ten days from home. It made a good trip. It is so pleasant to have a letter only ten days from home. I am glad to hear that you are getting along so well with your farm. I have much more confidence in your success than I would have in our friend Josh. You date in your letter that you have a good stand. That I think is the substantial part toward making a good crop. It makes my mouth water to think of the Raddishes, Lettuce, Peas, etc. that you have at home. We have nothing to eat here now but meat and bread and I get very tired of it sometimes. I crave vegetables all the time. Willey Ellis & Jack Craddock I suppose have a fine time of it at home. Uncle Joel's to girls have a good time of it,

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don't they! If they don't look sharp the Conscript Officer will get them. You state that it is most time I was coming home again. Nothing would please me better, but for me to get home now it is impossible, unless I go home dishonorable, and I had rather never go home at all than to go that way. I have given up all hopes of getting home until the present campaign is over. I would like very much to see Newt go home, but there is no chance for him at present. I know that Mother is very anxious to see him, and if there was any possible chance to get a furlough for him I would make the effort. He is in good health and getting along finely. Lieut. Dunlap has just arrived from home. He brings no news of any interest. It would have been very little trouble for him to have called by to see you before he left. I don't think that he knows much about any body except a few young ladies in Pickens. I am glad to learn that Julia has succeeded in procuring a substitute for Ira. I will certainly be a great relief to Ira. Soldiering don't suit his disposition. By the way how does Mag get along since Jim has returned to his Regiment.

Tell Mrs. Patty that I would do any thing in reason to please her, but I believe I rather undertake to send her a live Yankee than a bottle of Garretts months. How is my friend Miss Molly getting along. Does she have any beans. Tell her that I don't want her to live an old Maid.

I received a letter from Bro. Joe Lea a day or two ago. Will answer it when I return back to camp. Tell Little Hammie that Papa would like very much to be at home to catch fish for him. He must get Grand Pa John home with him. Tell dear Little Willie that Papa will come home as soon as they will let him. Kiss all the children and tell them howdy for Pa. Remember me to Papa & Mother. May God in Mercy Bless you my dearest.

Good Bye,
Your Devoted Husband,
Newton.