No 40

40

Co. 9th A.C.

Headquarters, 9th Regt. N.H. Vols. 1st Brig. 2d Divn
May 11th 1863. In Camp near Lancaster Ky

Dear Brother & friends

My heart was made to rejoice yesterday while on the march to this Place by receiving yours of April 26th and was glad to learn that you at Home were all in usual health I had feared it might be otherwise as it was a long while before I heard a word and yet I have no reason for suspecting that you would keep anything of the kind back therefore I beg your pardon for saying what I have The Mail had comes very irregular since we have been in Ky. for some reason or other unknown to me a person can go from here to N.H. in 5 days

I am also glad to state that my health is as good as ever and better

than it generly is at this time
of the year although I have bin trouble
with my teeth of late and I am not
over with it yet as they have decaied badly
since I have bin in the service I had
an upper eye tooth extracted a week ago
but a portion of one prong was left in and
it has kept me aware of the facts ever since
especialy nights I can't stand the tooth
ache and if they dont stop I shal have
them all yanked out And then I can
get my discharge for you can't eat
hard tack without them
We have glorious news to hear about
our old fighting Ground in Fredricksburg
Va; Our latest is that Richmond is taken
and all communication cut off from
the Rebs between them and their
army at F-b-g by Stonmans Cavalry
This is good enough to make a man throw
away his old hat and jump out of his
boots yet if this be true there is to
be some hard fighting then before

the Rebs give up still I think
hope and pray that it will be
a success in my respect, and when
I think how many lives have been
and will be lost in taking those
two Places I feel as though that if I
was them I could give no man taken
Prisoner only time to say his prayers
I am not sure but my heart has grown hard
since I enlisted if it has it never will
feel soften towards the Rebs
Yesterday was a very warm day but we
marched from Paint Lick Creek here which
is 11 miles from 8 o'clock A M to 1 P M.
This is not a large Place but a very pretty
one for it and we have a very pleasant view
of it from our Camp which is situated
½ mile from it on a hill the best
Ground (with the exception we have no
shade trees) that we have had
I think we may stay here some time
judging from the pains taken in
laying out the Camp which is in

very respect according to rule which is not commonly done yet we may not stay more than 3 days The 2d Brigade joined us yesterday

The farm that we are on belongs to a Dutch which I understand is to be sold to day I wish you & I had the dosh to buy it they say 600 acres in it but I dont know what it is valued at In Places where we have been Leesburg Winchester & Richmond land has been sold (I mean a whole farm of 500 A) at $100.00 pr Acre so you see we are fighting for a country that is worth fighting for yet everything eatable sells to be cheap we buy flour for 3 cts pr lb & bacon 10 cts (very nice) Eggs from 12 to 20 cts Chickens all stuffed and baked for 30 cts Turkys 50 & 75 cts & pigs from 10, 15 cts Cords of the above articles are brought into camp every day so you need not fear about our starving in this Country everything is cooked nice and good too On the other hand our rations have been poor having no salt Beef and very little fresh a day I think you would call this a little rough or greasy for hot weather but the Regt now are in a better state of health than ever I have been to the Dr with a man for near two weeks

I do not like to remember D C Davis of whom you wrote about as being at C C Hospital and was Home on a furlough however I thank him for his good opinion & recommend and hope I shall make my mark sometime but by my Commission as others in this Regt have done I think if I had been bred & born in N H. I should of had one in this but as you say it matters not so long as I am doing my duty and supporting the Government

P.M. We shal have to turn out for Battalion drill pretty soon but I will write a few more lines and tell of a little fun that the Colo and and all are having It commenced back to P.L. Creek The circumstances is this When we were at Lexicon there was a nearly white Negro came into camp and offered his servises to the Agt who took him on trial And he proved to be a good servant and a smart fellow too but ~~when w~~ before came here his master came into Camp and found him at least he clames him as his slave ~~[illegible]~~ accordingly he went to the Colo, about it I did not hear the conversation between him and the Colo but I think that he did not get much ahead of the Colos time
The Colo told him that he could have him on three conditions 1st by proving property (2d has left me) 3d by taking the oath of aligiance; ~~He~~ in answer

he said he could comply with the first two but the third he did not wish to and should have his property without compling with either of the last two and went off
The next day he came with another man to get his nig but no nigger could he find although was all the time in camp Rather than go back to his master he asked on his own accord for a Musqoon and musket and has gone into Co. B. where he marched all day yesterday paping by his master several times who was on the lookout for him, He has got a sharp one to look after if he is a Colored Individual and I dont think that he will ever get out of Camp alive with him
Why dont you send a paper perhaps you think that they will not reach me but there's no trouble about that as the rest of the soldiers

get them Also give me
Uncle Franks & Jims address
I should have written them before if
had known and now could think
to ask when I work But I must close
now and get ready for drill although
I dont feel much like it A little old
which is the complaint of all after a
march I hope you will not work
hard enough to make you sweat
worse than I did yesterday
I will write again soon have
just learned that our and two other
companies are to go on picket tomorrow
so I shal be at liberty unless there
should be some writing to do for
the Capt as I usualy do have Col Titus
goes more according to A Regulations than
we used to as the O. Sergt is not required
to go on picket write soon and often
and all about the Farm &c
As ever your affectionate brother & son
Chas. W. Wilcox