

Camp Hamilton
Sunday April 6th, 1862

My Dear Wife,

Yours of the 30 ult came duly at hand, and I assure you it gives me a great deal of comfort to read your letters. I did not get one written on Wednesday or Thursday if you sent it it was miscued. The weather is warm and pleasant it is quite comfortable to sit in the shade. I received a letter from Edmund with yours last. Also one from A.H. yesterday and one from Hermes today.

Yesterday there was a battle at Yorktown. We were in hearing distance the Cannonading commenced at about 8 or 9 in the morning and at 11 the enemy beat a retreat and our troops took possession of the town which is famous by being the place of the last battle of the Revolution. When Cornwallis surrendered his large army at Yorktown to General Washington it brought us our Independence and peace was quickly restored. Would that the victory obtained by us yesterday might do the same. Our troops pursued the enemy and the firing was heard until late last evening. It is reported that we lost six hundred in killed and wounded. I see they have a Balloon filled at the fort ready to go up recinoiting this afternoon. Oh how I wish you were here this is such a delightful country with fine sea breezes. I think if Government would allow me I would occupy one of these deserted farms and make this my future abode. If there was any place that you could stay at I would have you spend the Summer here. You would come via Pittsburgh to Harrisburgh and Baltimore by rail from Baltimore by steamer to Fortress Monroe. This is a pleasant trip. There is one hotel at the fort they charge \$15.00 per week for board and room.

We are expecting that the Merrimac will make her appearance again and try to runn the blockade but she will find plenty to do and a warm reception before she gets through. We have our 100 vessels here now at anchor besides the gunns of the fort and Ris Rass(?) but enough of this for you can read more from the papers than I can tell you. General McClellen was here in person on Friday. I suppose that he went forward with the troops. The Pahan(?) is at Manassas or there abouts. I do not hear anything from Washington yet in regard to my discharge. We are to be paid on Wednesday next then I am going to try for a furlough and shall go via Washington and look after this myself. The Health of this Regt is improving. I think there will be but few sick in Hospital in 10 days more. We have received but two for the last 4 days.

Sergeant C.D. Webster has just handed me a couple of papers sent by you for which I am very thankful. It seems good to get anything from you and home. You know that I always did like the Cleveland herald. I find a number of interesting little paragraphs. I do not get a paper very often since we came here. When at Phila I bought one nearly every day but they come so high here that I cannot afford it. Enclosed I will send you some wrappers(?) and you can use them. I heare a heavy cannonading at some distance as I now write. It is in the direction of Yorktown. I think from appearances that the Michigan 1st encamped at our right is preparing for an onward march(?) the 1st of the week.

I attended Preaching in this Regt this A.M. We had a good discourse for a passage in Pauls Epistle to ____ _____. There are a number to be mustered out on payday and sent home on account of sickness. Chris Brown for one he has consumption they think and one or two from Bradford.

Give my respects to all and believe me yours in Love

N.F. Marsh

P.S. If there is anything left out in this you wish to know I will put it into my next. I have had to get up about 25 times while writing this.