

Camp near New Market Va.

Shields Division, 3^d Brigade

My ever dear wife.

62^d Reg. Ohio Vols. April 22^d 1862

I wrote you a few pencil marks from this place day before yesterday, and now I will snatch a moment's time to write again though I almost despair of it getting to you, our mail facilities are so temporary, and uncertain, that I fear you will not get my letters at all. I am in excellent health, although we have had a hard time of it as a Regiment, our Regiment has had no teams for transporting tents, baggage &c. and when we stopped here, coming off of a hard march, had to encamp in the mud and rain without tents, I came here to this hotel to stay, where I have been for 3 nights, and very comfortable, but to see my men enduring such hardships, is too much to bear, and yesterday the company Officers held a meeting and I drew up a petition to head quarters for tents, setting forth our grievances, and last night, I in company with Capt. Pomastone went to Genl. Banks himself and presented our case and found that some of the Regiments had as high as 30 wagons while we had but 2. after our statement of the facts, and that we had appealed to our Col. in vain, he at once ordered us ten teams to be furnished forthwith, our court martial was adjourned when the order came tomorrow and I don't know when it will arrive again, perhaps here in a day, or two, if we stay here, which we may do, as I have just learned, that Jackson has escaped from this valley and gone

towards Richmond. we are probably from a junction with Fremont's
forces coming across to Staunton. we are about 40 miles yet from
Staunton. at all events we will have no more fighting to do in
this part of Virginia. Have ^{you} ever got your Wheeling paper?
I sent my money home to you by our sutler to Bernice to be there
sent up by express, which I earnestly hope you have got by this
time as I know you need it. I drew Adam's money for him
and sent it to him by our Chaplain yesterday. Poor fellow he is
sick at a Quaker's house beyond Winchester, and has not been
with the Regiment since before the battle of Winchester, I heard from
him about a week ago when he was some better, but very weak.
I have found all my clothes except that odd towel, Johnston has
five or six blankets he has gathered up along the road, needless
the boys have had to snatch at everything they could get, and it
has become a grab game, all around, and our company officer
yesterday just concluded we would take the matter in our own
hands. I expect to see some queer looks when Pomroster
and I go back to camp this morning with the result of our
efforts, our regiment is the largest one in Shields' Division, and
when on the march and face makes a magnificent appearance
It looks grand to see them fording a stream, when we came
through Mount Jackson 8 miles back we had to cross a small
creek. The Rebels had burnt the bridge. Dr H. lent me his horse
and I was over ahead, and stood on the bank and looked
at them. I would have given anything if I could have painted
the scene for you, the fact there is something wildly romantic and
constantly exciting about military life, and one remarkable
feature is the exemption from cold, when the men are so
exposed. I have taken no cold yet, and feel firm, and

in body, and in mind for I have no time to get the blues, nor to think
long enough at a time to despair. but still we would all be very willing
to quit and go home again to our own ones. Gen. Murphy started
home the other day on furlough and I intended to send a letter by him
to you but just as that time the order came to "forward March"
This was a sore disappointment to me but perhaps he will see and see
you anyhow, I told him to, and if he wants any thing to eat, give it
to him - my dear new turn a soldier away hungry, I have seen
so much of it along here that it makes my heart sick, though
I get enough myself - but if two or three boys can't get it, it will be better
now though since we got these letters to haul it, the Capt and I
are considerably elated with our success.

This town New Market is situated in Shanandoah County, and is a pretty
little town, beautifully situated in the most beautiful valley in Va.,
and surrounded by some of the finest farms I ever saw. Oh if it
wasn't for Slavery and Secesh. I would so much like to live here,
but it is sour, very sour, the people have nearly all left, and when
are still here can hardly look you in the face. The town is crowded
full of soldiers, every house is occupied by as many as can get in,
with our army encamped all around it. Col. Stryker of the
Seesh cavalry had his horse killed by one of our cavalry men
the other day and his forces are scattered every where our boys are
bringing them in by piece meal, every day or two they bring in
some of their prisoners. It has cleared off this morning very
nicely, and hope the bad weather is over for the Spring. We are
awaiting the news from York Town, as the result of this must be
the decisive stroke of the war and perhaps end the struggle as
it did in the Revolution, so mote it be.

I must now close as it is time to go to camp -

I do hope you have got my former letters, I have written
five or six times, I have gotter none from you yet but
think I certainly will get one today for I know there is one
or two in the way from you my dearest. I want to hear from
you & bad; and how your mother is and little deary
Lizzy. I believe she is nearly eight months old by this time
though I have lost all ideas of time nearly, but is well
of her cough and growing & well after our wife. and
dont give yourself any uneasiness about me for I am
getting along very well and enjoying myself as well as
a man could who is away from his family which
he loves as he loves his life -

Now good bye my dear wife, and believe me
as ever your loving and ever faithful husband
My love to all. When this affair is over and I am
safely at home again which I believe will be
soon be for I had my trust in Him, who is all, and
in all, and over all.

To adieu for the present my dear
ever faithfully yours

Miller Burnes

dearest, as before directed and it will
be forwarded to me as there is now
no military mail arrangement.

Shivers Division, 2^d Brigade
62^d Reg. Ohio Vols.
Richmond Va.