

Warewic Courthouse  
April 20, 1862.

Dear absent Brother & sister.

It has been a long time since I have heard from you. I recd a letter from you some time in March & answered it immediately. I do not know as you have recd it/ There was a dollar in the letter I recd and it came in a good time & I was thankful indeed. I was in Washington at the time. Since that I have been in different places. We started from Washington the 28th. of March. We started just at dusk & travelled 8 mile & arived Elexandrie at one o'clock in the morning. We had heavy loads to carry & we was a tired set of boys. We had to take the soft side of a brick sidewalk for our beds & it was a chilly night. I couched about 2 hours & then got up and walked till morning. Then we went back about 2 mile into a piece of woods to camp. We had no tents so we lay down & put our blankets over us & it commenced snowing. I went to sleep & when I awoke the snow was an inch deep. I got up & 3 others & ran the guard & went down to the city to try to get lodging but in vain. We travelled until night & then went back to camp & lay down in the snow & shivered through the night. I went into the tavern where Elsworth was shot whilst I was in the city. It is against the law there for any one to take in soldiers. In the morning we had marching orders again so we started again & went down to the coty & there we had to stand till 9 O'clock P.M. Then we took the boat. We had to lie down on the floor and a better nights rest I never had. In the morning we started and steamed down the Potomac into the Chespeak & from there to Fortress Munroe. We landed the first day of April. It was a warm beautiful day & we set down there in the village & suned ourselves. The village is very finely situated & the trees were in full bloom. It was a beautiful scenary. We started at 2 oclock and traveked to Newport 9 mile & camped down through the night & in the morning we went a mile farther and made us some shelters of rails & rubber blankets whilst we were there we heard cononading but come to find out it was shells. There was 4 regiments of rebels at Youngs Mills a mile back of where we now are. Our troops advanced on them & commenced shelling & the rebels scattered all sorts & left their baracs for our folks. We stayed at the camp one week and then moved a mile & stayed bout a fortnet. Then we had orders to march into the vicinity of Yorktown so we started and came 18 mile. Here we have struck our tents within 8 mile of York & shall stay here till farther orders. I think they have attacked Yorktown today for we hear a continual roaring of shot & shell. There was a balloon assension here yesterday. He went up 900 feet & was held by ropes & took a grand view of the rebels and Yorktown for the purpose of examining their position. I have written 9 letters & this makes 3 to you. Have recd 1 from home one from you & 1 from Eds folks. This regt have not recd any letters for a week till today & today there was 3 bushell came but none to me. I have felt so homesick since I enlisted. The 3 boys that tent with me got 11. D.Tower, A. Tower & Orin Smith.