

Wilson's Landing Virginia  
June 23<sup>rd</sup> 1864

Dear Friend

The boys are all out on duty, and I am the only one in the tent, and having nothing particular on hand today, I thought I might be writing a small history of my campaign as well as be loafing in my quarters, and at the same time knowing that it will be interesting to you to look over them. Lieut Burson is out on picket our Picket lines extend about 1 1/2 miles outside of the fortification, and is very strongly manned. I was put on Picket on last Sunday and remained until Monday evening I had control of the Picket Line. The circumstances in which I went out, made me feel a little squally on Sunday morning a dispatch came into camp that there was a heavy force of Rebs making their way towards our works, consequently every man that could shoulder his gun was at his post and should we of been attacked we would not of gave them a very kind reception, as we have one of the best arranged breast works I have seen, and had also about two thousand

men armed with Sharps Rifles, and one full artillery  
 company, composed of some 12 or 13 heavy cannons. in addition  
 there is two large Gun Boats laying at the landing.  
 this point was taking by our men from the Rebs some  
 four weeks ago, and there is no doubt they would like  
 to have it back again. this point is the most  
 prominent on the James River, & is said to be the highest  
 it is about fifty feet above the river so you will see  
 that the country on the Jax River, can't be very high  
 Mr Wilson the man that owned this farm, had put out  
 this spring some 300 acres of corn, there has never been  
 a plow or hoe put in it, it is growing up in weeds  
 it is said he owned some 2000 acres, and well stocked  
 with negroes, when our army came in he started out and  
 had the Rebs to attack our forces, they were entirely defeated  
 Mr Wilson with many others <sup>Rebs</sup> were killed, and can be seen lying  
 around out side the camp yet his negroes were all set  
 free, there is a man right across the river who  
 owns some seventeen thousand acres of land and  
 any amount of negroes, & since our troops got possession here  
 they have taking all his negroes & every thing else, this whole  
 country is owned by heavy land holders owning from  
 one to twenty thousand acres, a poor man can't own  
 any land, all the men on the approach of our lines have

their houses, and our men destroy the boys  
 bring in lots of stuff every day that they take  
 from deserted houses. A lot of the boys went out  
 yesterday and broke back into President Jylaw  
 house and took and destroyed lots of stuff, they  
 say he has the nicest kind of a mansion the  
 house furnished in the best of style, they Brat in  
 some very nice furniture such as sofas looking  
 glass stands carpeting & of the very costliest kind and  
 destroyed the piano & large looking glass & such other  
 stuff they could not bring in. There was also a for-  
 inging Party went out from this post yesterday on  
 a steamer and came back last evening with  
 a full load they Brat in 40 head of sheep some 20 or 30  
 head of cattle lot of Mules & Horses & among the rest  
 eighty negroes they were mostly women & children  
 good many of them young women one old nig 105 years  
 old so he says they were all took from one family  
 they also took all the furniture they had. The family  
 they said went on at a great sail at the idea  
 of losing their all, and well they might. Just think  
 we would feel if we had ever thing took, our men  
 shows therebs in this section no mercy, take everything  
 we are getting up another party to start out to morrow

to clean out an old Ret which lives out some  
 six miles they say he has lots of Niggers & stock they  
 will bring them in the Niggers we send to Forts men  
 there they have a large lot of land which they make them  
 work. there is about 25000 there some of our captains  
 are selecting young darskeys to take home they want me to  
 take one I can get any kind I want they are more of a dog  
 than any thing else. I see young darskeys all kind of colours from  
 nearly white to as black as black. I thought I had better  
 counsel with you before I risk to bring one. Now if you  
 think you could like to have a little darskey and  
 that you would undertake to raise one let me know  
 and also what kind you would like to have, for  
 I can get any kind of one they are a perfect dog  
 here. there is a great many things I might write you  
 that would be of interest to you but time wont permit when  
 I get home I will be able to give you a good deal of news  
 and many interesting details. that is if you can get me  
 in a good mood for talking for you know I am quite  
 a talker. I wrote my Father yesterday quite a history of what  
 I have seen & will no doubt be sent to him, as it comes  
 direct from one that has seen what it contains ~~that~~ you  
 can get it of him as I intended it for you all to read  
 you can take it over if you want & let your father see it  
 as it contains no secrets. You can also let him see what  
 I send to you, as there is no one that will be more interested  
 in a letter from this section than he will, in regard to general  
 news you will get it sooner than I could send it to you. you  
 can tell Mary Grog that her Brother Alb came in to camp the other day  
 he was very glad to see the boys. he looked pretty hard, having to travel  
 a good deal & I guess have been in some hard shermishes he is very tired  
 he says of soldiering and I dont wonder to see the way some men are used  
 made perfect rans &c good Bye write often

direct to Capt A R Astor Col  
 145 Regt 015  
 Wilsons Landing  
 James River Va

A R Astor  
 all well

Wilsons Landing Virginia

June 23 1864

Dear Friend,

The boys are all out on duty, and I am the only one in the tent and having nothing particular on hand to day, I thought I might be wrighting a small history of my campaign as well as be loafing in my quarters and at the same time knowing that it will be interesting to you to look over them. Lieut Burson is out on Picket our Picket lines extends about 1 1/2 miles outside of the fortification, and is very strongly mand. I was put on Picket on last Sunday and remained until monday evening I had control of the Picket Line. The circumstances in which I went out made me feel a little squally on Sunday morning a dispatch came into camp that there was a heavy Force of Rebs making their way towards our works. Consequently every man that could shoulder his gun was at his post and should we of been at tacked we would not of gave them a very kind reception as we have one of the best arranged breast works I have seen and had also about two thousand

2

men armed with the sharps Rifles, and one full artilery company composed of some 12 or 15 heavy cannons in addition there is Two Large gun Boats laying at the landing. this point was taken by our men from the Rebs some four weeks ago and there is no dout they would like to have it back again. This point is the most prominent on the James River & is said to be the highest it is about Fifty feet above the river so you will see that the country on the Jas River cant be very high Mr. Wilson the man that owned this farm had put out this spring some 500 acres of corn there has never been a plow or how put in it. it is growing up in weeds. it is said he owned some 2000 acres and well stocked with Negroes. when our army came in he started out and had the Rebs to attack our forces. they were entirely defeated Mr. Wilson with many others Rebs were kiled, and can be seen lying around out side the camp yet his negros were all set free. there is a man right across the River Reb who ownes some Seventeen thousand acres of land and any amount of Negroes. & since our troops got posession here they have taking all his negros & everything else. this whole country is owned by heavy land holders owning from

one to Twenty thousand acres A poor man cant own  
any land. all the men on the approach of our forces leave

3

their homes and our men destroy the boys  
bring in lots of stuff every day that they take  
from deserted houses. A lot of the boys went  
out yesterday and broke into President Tylers  
hous and took and destroyed lots of stuff. they  
say he has the nicest kind of a mansion the  
house furnished in the best of style. they Beat in  
some very nice furniture such as sofas looking  
glasses stands carpeting &c of the very costliest kind and  
destroyed the pyana & large looking glasses & such other  
stuff they could not Bring in. there was also a for  
inging Party went out from this post yesterday on  
a steamer and came back last evening with  
a full load they Brot in 80 head of sheep some 20 or 30  
head of cattle lot of mules & Horses & among the rest  
eighty negroes they were mostly women & children  
good many of them young women one old nig 105 years  
old so he says these were all took from one family  
they also took all the furniture they had. the family  
they said went on at a great rait at the idea  
of loosing their all. and well they might. Just think  
we would feel if we had ever thing took. our men  
shows the rebs, in this section no mercy take everything  
we are getting up another party to start out tomorrow

4

to clean out an old Reb which lives out some  
six miles they say he has lots of Niggers & stock they  
will bring them in the negroes we send to Fortress Monroe  
there they have a large lot of land which they make them  
work. There is about 2500 there some of our captains  
are selecting young darkeys to take home they want me to  
take one I can get any kind I want they are more of a drug  
than anything else. I see young darkies all kind of colors from  
nearly white to as Black as Black. I thought I had better  
counsil with you before I risk to bring one. Now if you  
think you would like to have a little darky and  
that you would undertake to raise one let me know  
and also what kind you would like to have for  
I can get any kind of one. they are a perfect drug  
here. there is a great many things I might wright you

that would be of interest to you but time wont permit when I get home I will be able to give you a good deal of news and many interesting details. That is if you can get me in a good mood for talking for you know I am quite a talker. I wrote my Father yesterday quite a history of what I have seen & will no dout be some interest to him as it comes direct from one that has saw what it contains ~~this~~ be you can get it of him as I intended it for you all to read you can take it over if you want & let your father see it as it contains no secrets you can also let him see what I send to you, as there is no one that will be more interested in a letter from this section than he will. in Regard to general news you will get it sooner than I could send it to you. you can tell Mary Greg that her Brother Alb came in to camp the other day he was very glad to see the boys. he looked purty hard having to travel a good deal & I gues have been in some hard skirmishes he is very tired he says of soldering and I don't wonder to see the way some men are used made perfect slaves &c good Bye write often direct to

Capt A. R Arter Co C  
143 Reg Oh I  
Wilson's Landing  
James River Va

A R Arter  
all well