

Camp near Brooks station Feb 18/63

Dear Parents

you requested that I would take a few notes I thought I would fill this sheet out in that style. 18 To day has been very disagreeable the snow is melting & it rained considerable the weather is not very cold however to night it rains quite hard but I am thankful that I have a good place to stay in 19th This morning it rains some but not very steady and not as hard as yesterday but as our camp is on a good situation on a hill that is some what of a sandy soil there is but little mud the weather is quite warm & as the day advances the snow disappears to night the snow has almost entirely disappeared and it has sprinkled a little

Feb 20th This morning we were called up at break of day to beat Revillee & for about an hour the country was alive with noise not the sound of the hammer & anvil but the rattle of Fifes & drums and the notes of the Bugle awaking uniformed thousands from repose (that is the way it is every day) at 8 1/2 o c we had Guard mounting (as usual) and we marched them to the Guard house to the tune of "the Girl I left behind me" at nine o c we Musicians went out and practised till ten o c and some sweet little songster greeted us with its music as we entered the woods where we practice we are learning some waltz tunes to play at retreat (sundown) the weather this morning is beautiful the sun shines brightly and and some times we hear the pretty blue birds sing

This afternoon I attended the Funeral of a soldier in Co D he has been sick bad for a short time the day continues pleasant this afternoon I drew my rations of Hardtack coffee sugar &c at retreat "sundown" the Musicians played Minnie Moore and Bartletts Quickstep a piece the old Westfield band used to Play at 8 1/2 o c we Played Tattoo and at 9 "or near 9" o c "lights out" one Drummer goes out & strikes his drum 6 times for lights out Feb 21st had a good nights rest & up at 5 1/2 this morning and the sun rose beautifully and it is a very pleasant day had a white frost last night this morning I heard the Blue Birds sing most beautifully went out and practised an hour & saw some of Co I Capt Mills shoot at a mark they shot rather closer than I care about having Bullets come to me To day companys D & I which are in one Division have went & got a lot of Evergreens & set a row on both sides of the street and we Musicians not wishing to be out done have done our part and it makes a wonderful improvement for my share I cut a beautiful cedar & another evergreen the wood of which is very brittle and the cluster of leaves are like the Pine at any rate either of the trees would grace a rich mans front yard to night I had rice for my supper and drew 5 Potatoes & a loaf of soft Bread for tomorrow with my usual rations of sugar &c to night after tattoo I went in and heard the Lieuts of my Co E sing some pretty pieces the day has been very pleasant Feb 22d This morning I awoke and when I got up I found the weather had changed and my clothes that I had piled up on a Drum were covered with one of the prettiest heaps of snow you ever saw but it was very dry and shook off easily there has been some tall Artillery Firing to day but I suppose that it is nothing more than celebrating Washingtons Birth day as they fired regularly

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and several Batteries fired 66 rounds apiece wasting considerable powder the day has been quite stormy and disagreeable out doors but as the day advanced the storm ceased in consequence of getting into the smoke my eyes are quite sore 23 to day is quite pleasant but cool and the snow lays on the ground to the depth of about 8 inches this afternoon I chopped some wood 24th to day is very fine last night I recieved a letter from Frank and as I had expected one some time I was right glad to hear from home my eyes are most well again. The report that we are at Ft Monroe is not true we are near Stafford CH & Brooks Station I am glad to hear that John Booth is doing so well do what you can for the benefit of the soldiers for they need all that they get if I were at home I should Just go right in and and give them a little lift I reckon I have recieved both those letters but from the limited stock of P.O. stamps I get I have not answered them yet do not take offence at what I say I was only asking in a round about way for you to please keep me a little better supplied Truly you who live in Westfield can say Truly God is doing great things for us whereof we ought to be glad & exceeding Joyful and that as far away from home as I am O that I could hear those songs of rejoicing and shouts of Praise ascending to heaven from those new born souls & loosened tongues tell them for me Dear Brother to be Faithful to the talents given them and shout victory over Death and the grave through Jesus Christ who has indeed gotten them the victory The news such Glorious revives my spirits & gives me new courage by the way and I feel like shouting Glory to God in the highest Hosannahs to the King of Kings pen is a poor thing to describe my feelings and only one that knows by an experimental knowledge what it is to feel the Joys of sins forgiven can form an idea of the happiness the sun though it shines brightly outside is exceeded by the light and Joy that has