

Camp Pitcher Va
March 30th 63

Dear Johnney

I recieved your letter of the 25th to day and hasten to answer.

I have not recieved any letters from home in three weeks or over and I have been waiting for one before I would write.

We have been on outpost duty for six days and had a pretty rough time for it was wet weather and we had no shelter but such as we could make out of brush and that dont ammount to much in a rain storm.

The weather is getting warmer but it will be some time before the roads will be dry enough to move the army and before that time we expect to be ordered to New York and all the two year Regts mustered out of the service.

I would not sow any more grain than you will want for your own use and oats enough to keep a team you better plough about eight or ten acres altogether.

You had better get along with the waggon untill I get home if you can and then we will see what can be done with it. I dont know what to advise you to buy with George's money if you can get decent help for \$5 I think they would be best but you will have to use your own judgement about it. I think wool is likely to keep up its price for some time yet as long as the war lasts at any rate.

Alic was here the other day and staid all night with me the boys are both well and likely to be soon promoted.

I have nothing more to write this time but remain

yours

William Bird Jr

Camp Sickles Va
April 21st 1863

Dear Father

It is now a good while since I have had a letter from you and I thought I would not wait any longer. I had a letter from Johney a few days ago also one from George dated March 23d it was about a month on the road he was just starting on the Yazoo Expedition he is still in the Commisary department.

The 154th started a week ago on the reconoisance up the river at Kelley's Ford but I expect they are back by this time.

We are under marching orders but I dont know when we will start or where we are going or if we will move at all as it is thought our Corps will be in Reserve but the army is all ready to move and is only waiting for good weather for it has been very wet for the last week.

The War Department has decided to keep us in the service untill the 7th of June but I think they intend to keep us in reserve or send us to some of the fortifications and let us have a pretty easy time the rest of our time in hopes to get the men to reeinlist which I expect a good many of them will do but I believe I have had enough.

The weather is getting warm and pleasant now we are camped in a piece of woods and are pretty comfortable. Tell Johney I will write him soon.

Tell Mother to write

I have nothing more to day but remain

yours

William Bird Jr

Camp Sickles Va
May 10th 1863

Dear Father

I have at last got time to write to you for we have had hurrying times lately. I recieved your of the 27th April and was glad to hear from you.

We left our camp on the 29th and supported Sedgwick's Corps when they crossed the river on the 30th below Fredricksburg and the same night we were ordered up to the United States Ford and marched about 15 miles and crossed the river the next morning and advanced to the front and joined Hooker. On the afternoon of the 2nd our division attacked the Right of the enemy and drove them back three miles and took two guns and 700 prisoners but while we were doing this Jackson came down on our right and drove them in pell mell with great loss it was there that the 154th fought and they were drove with the rest. We were then ordered back to support the right and reached the ground about dark.

We found the enemy in possession of the flank road and it being necessary for us to use the road two of our Brigades were ordered to make a night attack and carry the road with bayonet and our Brigade and Wards being considered the most reliable were given the post of honor.

It was here that I came across our boys their Co had got seperated from their Regt and they camped near us that night and I was glad to see them safe for their Regt had been all stove up.

About 11 o'clock at night we started on our night expedition and dashed into a piece of woods we found the Rebs behind a breast work with a lot of timber slashed down in front of it and with two batteries in position. It was hottest place I was ever in we we got a terrific fire but we gave a yell and dashed through the brush and drove them out of the breast work with the bayonet and took of their batteries and carred it off and accomplished our object but it was the most desperat affair of the war and our loss was heavy I got a bullet through my sleeve but that was all the damage I have suffered. (I am pretty well jagged out but my health is good.)

The next morning the Rebs attacked us in overwhelming force and our men being completely exhausted with 36 hours of constant fighting were forced back with terrible loss about a mile and I had a narrow escape from being taken I stayed behind trying to rally the Regt untill they were within ten rods of me and ordered me to surrender but I am good on foot and showed them clean pair of heels they made the bullet sing around my ears but I got of safe.

The fight raged all forenoon and the Rebs had the best of it and only stopped when they were tired out they fought like fiends and charged right up to our batteries and were cut down in heaps I believe their loss will ammount to 20000 and ours will be about 15000.

I lost 23 men killed wounded and missing out of my company and the Regt lost 273 nearly half. We held our position two days more under fire most of the time when a retreat was ordered and commenced on the night of the 3rd our Corps was the last to leave the front we left at daylight on the 4th it had been raining all night hard and the mud was awful we were about three miles from the river and most of the troops get across by noon.

There was no pursuit and it is now thought the Rebs retreated about the same time we did. It is about a drawn game the Secsh got a belly full and so did we.

The army is badly used up and will take some time to get fixed up again I dont think any thing more can be done before our time is up which is only three weeks now and I am glad of it for I have had enough of the war.

Alic was here yesterday they got out all right their Regt lost about 200 Col Jones was wounded and Sam Noyes and Com Vedder and Warren Kingsley was killed. No more here at present from yours truly

William Bird Jr

Camp Sickles Va
May 29th 1863

Dear Johnney

I recieved yours of the 23rd to day and am glad to hear that you are all well and are getting along with the springs work, I am afraid you and Eddy have your hands full.

The order came to day for us to go to New York and be mustered out and we start on the 3rd of June I think it will take us about a week after we get to New York to get mustered out and settled up and I will probably be home about the 10th.

I have been very buisy the last two weeks getting my accounts in order

I have received in the last six months over \$7000 worth of property from the Government in Clothing. Camp & Garris on Equipage and Arms etc and it make a great deal of writing to account for it all .

We are going to have a great reception in New York the 38th Regt is going home with us and they are going to make a great spread over the returning Irish heroes I expect all the Mickeys in New York will be out to welcome us

I suppose Co I will all come home together but I dont know my Co are mostly to be left in Allegany & Great Valley. I will bring you the shirts and any thing else you want when you write again direct your letter to New York

The boys are all well.

I dont know whether I can bring you any thing from Chacellorsville or not but I will see

I have nothing more to night but remain

yours

William Bird

Camp near Ft Albany
May 27th 1864

Dear Father

I suppose you have been looking for a letter from me for some time but I have been so buisy I have not had time to write untill to day we are encamped in Arlington Heightes about three miles from Washington.

We have got a very good camp in a fine orchard the apples are as large as plums good dry ground and good water

We have only five companies of the Regt here but we are expecting another every day.

We will be here untill the Regt is full and I expect it will take some time to fill the other four Co's when we are full we will probably be sent to guard some Rail Road or fort.

We dont have much to do here but drill but we keep pretty buisy at that.

I see that the 154th by the papers had had a fight I saw a list of the killed and wounded and I dont see any of our boys names but Col Jones and Capt Vedder are wounded.

I have had a pretty tough time getting my company broke in for I have got some of the greatest villians (anyway?) but I am getting them pretty well subdued now.

We are very comfortable here and can live well and pretty cheeup it is the shad season now and we get plenty of fish very cheeup.

Let me hear how your are getting along with your spring work I suppose it has been a very backward spring. I has been very wet here.

Tell Johney to write to me I have nothing more to say to day but remain

yours

William Bird Jr

Direct

Capt William Bird Jr
179th Regt N Y Vols
Washington D C

White House Va June 3rd /64

Dear Johney

We arrived here safe and sound to day at White House Landing on the Pamunkey the present base of the Army of the Potomac 25 miles from Richmond.

We were put on duty as soon as we got here guarding Rebel prisoners we have got 700 in our charge to night that came in to day and they are still coming every thing seems to be going right in front Grant is said to be in front of Richmond.

I have not got time to write much to night and am pretty tired. Tell Mother not to be uneasy about me for we have got a good place here and are not likely to go to the front. I am well and hearty. Write soon and give me all the news and I remain

yours
William Bird Jr

Direct as before

Mt Pleasant Hosp
Washington June 21st 1864

Dear Father

I arrived here last night with another touch of the wars a shell wound on the left knee it is not serious but rather painful and I expect to be home in a few days as soon as I am able to travel

We belong to Gen Ledlie's Division 9th Corps and on the evening of the 17th were ordered to charge a line of rifle pits in front of Petersburg the same line had been charged by the 3rd Div in the afternoon but they were repulsed with heavy loss and at 6 P M our Div was ordered to storm the works we were formed in three lines our Regt was on the left of the first line and exposed to the flank fire of a battery and we were almost destroyed I took 23 men of my Co into the fight and only 6 came out safe I was hit just in front of the breast work but it was taken with the bayonet we did not fire a shot until we were across it.

My sword was broken in my hand by a shell but I am bringing home a rebel sword in place of it.

I am very lucky to get out so cheap

I dont feel like writing more to day but will write more soon if I dont come home

I can come home as soon as I am able to travel my knee is not cut much but bruised and stiff and quite painful but it is doing well and I am in a first rate place and get good care so you need not be uneasy for I shall be able to go on crutches in a day or two. Tell Mother not to worry about me and I remain

yours

William Bird Jr

I got a letter from Elic dated May 22d yesterday they are all well also one from Johny dated June 9th

WB

Mt Pleasant Hosp
Washington June 30th 64

Dear Father

I recieved your letter of the 25th last night and was glad to hear from home for I have not heard a word in two weeks.

I am getting along very well and I expect I will be able to start home about the 4th if I get tired I shall take two or three days on the road. I have been up on my crutches a little the last two days I can go pretty well on them. We had a very hot week here last week it was from 90 to 97 every day but we had a thunder shower on Monday and it is very much cooler now. A great many men died of their wounds here while the hot weather lasted but they are doing much better now. My knee is healing up well but it is very sore and stiff yet and I am afraid I will be stiff a long time.

I have made application for 60 days leave of absence and the Surgeon has recommended it and I shall get it in a day or two.

I have no news to write for the Hosp is out of town and I dont see anything.

You need not answer this for I shall be home next week so I remain

Yours William Bird Jr
Capt 179th N Y Vols

Officers Hosp Anapolis
Aug 20th 1864

Dear Father

I arrived here on Wednesday morning all right.

I saw Dr Johnson and some other Surgeons in New York and they told me it would be some time before I have a good knee.

I have been ordered into the Hosp here for sick and wounded officers and had by leg examined and been ordered before a board of surgeons for another examination but have not been called before board yet. I think they will discharge me.

This is a very fine place here the Hosp is on the grounds of the Naval School in a lot of fine brick buildings on the shore of the Chesapeake Bay I have a good room well furnished and good board and attendance for which I have to pay \$1.00 per day.

We get plenty of fresh fish and oysters here and there is a fine chance of bathing and boating and plenty of peaches and melons very cheap so I dont care how long they keep me here.

There is about 400 wounded officers here and we are not allowed to leave the ground without a pass but we have every thing we need inside.

I have nothing more to day but remain yours

William Bird Jr

Direct

Capt William Bird Jr
Officers Hosp Anapolis
Md

PS Tell Mary to forward any letters or papers that come to me

**LETTERS FROM CAPT WILLIAM BIRD JR
To Minnie, Will & Harry Bird in Blaine Wash**

Fairmont April 28th 1887

My Dear Will

The Arundell's paid their note yesterday; what do you want done with the money; shall I send it to you or leave it in bank here. What are you doing.

Have you struck any satisfactory job yet. Remember that there is always plenty of room & lots of grub at home for you if you dont find anything better.

We finished seeding some time ago but the weather is very cold & backward and not much grass yet.

We are all well here & there is no news & I remain

yours

William Bird

William Bird Jr
229 State Street S E
Minneapolis

Fairmont May 14th 1887

My Dear Will

Your letter was recieved yesterday. I am glad to hear that you have found a place to work. Write & let us know how you like it. You need not send John's cloths as I will be up there the last of this month. If you don't want to use this money I had better bring it with me but if you do write & I will send it. Jim has hired out to Burnett for \$20 per month he has been there a week but I dont know how long he will stay I am afraid it is not a good place.

We had a heavy rain last night the first for a long time. We have finished planting & are now painting the house.

When does Uncle Bill expect to move

We are all well. Dont be so long in writing

yours

William Bird

Fairmont, Minn July 1st 1887

My Dear Will

Your letter enclosing \$1 for the boys recieved. We leave here for camp on the 6th.

I think you could get in with the Duluth Co if you watch out for them. Tell Capt DeWitt who you are & you will be welcome.

They will probably go through Minneapolis by the Omaha.

We have all your things ready

yours

William Bird

Fairmont Jan 20th

My Dear Min and Harry

I must tell about the supper the Test and W R A had Frida night we had a big time we wer all to fetch our whol families so we all went now I will tell you what I took I took a tin of buisquet-a big jell cake and frosted it and a jar of pickles and a jug of milk and two lbs of butter and a cold chicken and Teo payed a \$1.00 fo the oysters dent jar think we gave plenty we had a nice oyster supper I wish you three had ben their I missed you all

after supper we had a danse the boys had a big time Pa danced with Mrs. John Burdie tell Will I danced the Judge Prat what will he think of that

Min I must tell you how munch company I have contacted now Mrs. Burdick is coming up thursday and bring hir little boy they will stay two days T is going down after hir and fetch hir back I wish you wer going to be heer Saturday I am going to send fer Emma and the children tocome up and stay all night and have Byran com up Sunday I sent for hir last Saturday but she could not come I have promesed to fetch Mrs. Walker up to stay a couple of days

And Adah is coming up to stay two or three day and some day Dell and Lin Gernble are coming up and Jim is going to have Will Brown to come some night soon and stay all night I wish you wer heer to help me to wait on them all and I know that Will and Harry would like to hear when Adah comes she has not forgot the corn picking I think lots of hir they wer all so good to Dick Harry I suppose you and Will are uneasy because you are out of werk And I think a rest will doe you good I wish Min would take a rest to Harry dont you think she werks just as hard as she did at home I wish she would take a little rest I think she might Minnie I am so glad that you and the boys think so munch of Mr and Mrs Yenner and family I dont wonder you think so munch of hir she has alway's been so kind to you I am not munch acquainted with hir but I know I should like hir They say she is like hir mother hir Mother and I are great friends I most alway's drop in to see hir when I go to town tell Mrs Yenner her Mother and I have planned to go together and make you and hir a visit doe you suppes we will get their I wish we could drop in and surpris you both tell MrsYenner hir Mother is as foolish about hir children being gon as I am no more good by

Ma

Minnie and Harry give my love to Mrs Yenner and John

Fairmont Apr 17th 1890

My Dear Boys

Your letters from Blaine are both recieved & we all glad to hear that you had a pleasant journey and got safe through.

We are all well here except that Jim does not seem to gain any. I have been oblijed to let Alex take his place on the cream waggon.

The first two days that Jim gathered cream it rained hard both days and the roads were very bad. The weather is good now and the roads dry and I think when it gets warm weather Jim may be able to drive.

We are finishing seeding to day and the first sowed wheat is coming up. Dr. Alton was here the other day and cut the tumor out of Liza's heart. The (sorrel?) had got out a few days before & he though best to cut it out.

The mare seems to be doing well & the colt has straightened up all right & is a fine colt she is fat as a pig.

Wilford said he thought his Father would take the colt ^Harry's^ at \$50 and we are looking for him to day. Do you want the money for the colt sent you. Is Blaine a money order office or will we send a draft.

As soon as you get a chance to look around you must write all about Blaine.

I had a letter from John Merritt in which he spoke of a piece of land in the Nooksack valley that Tanner mentioned to him as being a good place for a shingle mill. Find out from Tanner all you can about it & whether he meant there was a water power on it & how much cleared etc?

You did not say in your letter what you were going to work at. I suppose carpenter work. There is nothing more to write about here at present You must one of you write at least every week for we miss you both very much here

yours
William Bird

Fairmont May 9th 1890

My Dear Boys

Your letters of Apr 30th & May 2nd are recieved

I am glad to hear that you are prospering and enjoying yourselves. We are getting along here pretty well.

We finished planting on the 7th. We planted about 22 acres of corn and sowed the west end of the corn ground to flax about 7 acres and also the piece that was in flax last year. We will break some and sow flax. Jim does not gain very fast and is only able to gather cream on some fine days & John has to go with him.

We have had very cold backward weather and cattle barely get their living now. I has been very dry but we have had two showers lately.

The mare and colt are doing finely her breast is nearly healed up it will leave quite a scar. The colt grows like a weed and is as fat as a pig. They are now out in the pasture with the rest of the colts.

Frank McCadden offered \$35 for Ole to day. Do you want sell him and what price.

Does Harry want his money sent him. If so shall I send a draft or is Blaine a money order P O.

What part of the town is your lot in? Where is it from the old wharf? How large is it. I presume some of the real estate have map's of Blaine & vicinity you might send one if possible.

We will sell the hogs next week we are offered \$3.50.

I bought a sow and six pigs three weeks old for \$15 the sow will weigh 200.

The company will be inspected on the 16th; we will have a tight fit to have men enough. we have six recruits.

Do you see the sentinel ever had I better send it to you.

There is nothing new here you boys must write often. We get your letters written on Sunday the next Monday.

Yours

William Bird

Fairmont July 14th /90

Dear Will

Yours of the 3d was recieved to day. Also Harrys of the 7th . You speak of us sending butter there to sell I dont think you know how much the express is on it.

Minnie enquired of Wood & he said 5 cts but he meant as freight. The express costs 13 cts & you see we could not ship and make anything by express. I think when the weather gets cooler we might ship by freight.

It is almost impossible to sell butter here now.

We have just commenced haying. Grass is good. Crops are good but we have had some very hot weather lately yesterday was 96° & I am afraid it was bad for the wheat which is just in the milk. The flax is first rate but there is some complaint of worms cutting late flax. Will Brown has a piece that they say is spoiled.

Charley is working for A L Ward setting up machinery he gets \$40-per month & board.

I am very sorry that you have not found any land. Have you inguired about the upper Nooksack country there was plenty of land there 2 years ago.

Minnie leaves here on Thursday the 17th and will stop in Minneapolis a week she expects to leave there on the 24th but will write you from Minneapolis.

Mrs. Burnham goes with her. What time do they expect the R R to reach Blaine

We will commence harvest in about 10 days.

The straw is very heavy but it stands up well yet. The stacking will be a big job.

The colts are all looking well. Liza's shoulder is healed up but it is a bad scar & the skin is wrinkled so I am afraid the collar will hurt it.

She has been driven to town a couple of time & it did not seem to hurt her but I am afraid it will hurt the sale of her.

I am sorry that you dont get your pay for the wood. Is the wood all burned that you have cut if any is left cant you hold it for your pay.

How does John Merritt make out in his candy store. He dont write here any more.

We are all well & there is no news

Yours

William Bird

Fairmont Minn
July 7 1890

My Dear Nephew

I re'ed your's is due season. Also the photographs. for which please except thanks. They have settled a question that has been agitation my mind for some time. I had been considering whither I had better take your Aunt Deb with me if I went to Wash or take my chances of getting a Squaw after I got there I see by those photographs that there is a Squaw on every stump. It looks as if the woods was full of them. I see in that photo you sent to Deb that you had got pretty clost to that big Squaw that is standing up with a hat on. That is a mighty good looking Squaw. I think you had better get hir to keep house for you. She looks as if she could set things to right.

We have had plenty of rain since you left and crops are looking splendid I never saw them as good be-fore. The hogs are going through my corn for the last time. My oats are simply immense. Flax is late but looks well. Grass is going to be extra good. I was over to your fathers yesterday. His flax and wheat is as good as I ever saw.

I saw Byron Curtis he had just re'd a letter from you he showed it to me. I hope you will get the pay for cutting that wood I would be almost to much of a joke for to donate that the boom. Has Mr Meritt sold his farm yet.

I think when Blain takes another (stemt?) it will be on a more healthy (dasis.?)

Any thing you write about that country is interesting to me.

I wish you would say to John Merritt that I will give him. \$6.00 for that old gasoline stove and can that is down in the old Mono barn. providing it is not smashed up before I hiar from him. There is a new pattern of a Gasoline stove out now that is all the rage. Hotaling is offering his stock of the old style stoves at cost. He offered me a new stove two burners with oven of the old style for \$6.00. But I thought I would rather have John's for there was three burners to it.

Please let me hear from you as soon as you see him. and if I dont get that I will get a new one.

Yours truly
R. J. McCadden

Fairmont Feb 11th 1891

My Dear Will

Yours of the 2nd also a newspaper are recieved.

I shipped you yesterday three tubs of butter; 109 lbs it cost 16 cts. The weight of each is marked on the tubs (47-7) 52-7) 30-6). Freight pre-paid & bill enclosed.

The butter and freight cost \$21.60 and deducting the \$5 for Crop leaves \$16.60 due.

We are having some Winter weather now. have had another snow storm and cold wave but to-day it is warmer again. We have nearly two feet of snow and quite badly drifted.

We got up the ice last week in good shape. We had two fine days and got it up pretty easy. We sawed it all it is 16 inches thick.

The stock are all wintering first rate & we will have plenty of hay. We have one new milk cow & she is doing well.

There is no news here

All well

Yours

William Bird

We can get more butter for you if you wish and I think it will be a little cheaper soon.

W B

Fairmont Jan 20th 1891

My Dear Will

Your letter recieved also the boom sheet and the apple. I ship you to-day (freight bill enclosed) seven tubs butter. Six tubs weight 139 lbs cost \$23.45 freight on the seven tubs \$6.56 making \$30.01.

The tub marked Minnie in pencil on the cover you may have for yourselves it is one we packed for our own use but we will have enough without it. I hope the butter will go through all right and that you may make a good profit on it. We paid 17 cts for the most of it.

Uncle Billy has been down for a short visit and went home yesterday.

Our fine weather continues. The snow is all gone and the roads are getting quite muddy. We have not filled the ice house yet the ice is only about 1 foot thick and not very good

They are shipping ice to-day by rail to Delavan.

You speak of buying teams and working on the rail road next summer. I dont know what to advise about it.

There is nothing new here.

All well

Yours

William Bird

If you want to buy any more butter we can get it for you

W B

Will I thought I would drop a few lines in Pas letter I told Min in my last letter that you could have half of the little tub of butter that we were going to send you but you can have the whole of it we dont kneed it and will not have on cent back for it now remember dont you send one sent back for it if you do I shall send it right back we have plenty of every thing to eat and plenty of every thing to wear we killed a nice big beef and it is splendid we killed four nice pigs and we have salted the whole of it we have salted it sugar cured there is over 700 pounds of hams and sholders and 90 lbs of side port for bacon I wish you children wer going to be hear to help eat it Tell Min she can sell the small tub of butter and pay the freight on the pork and pickles and if there is any thing left she can have it for pocket monney the pickles you must have if they doe cost more then they are werth for they are so nice I know you will like them

Now Will if you want any more butter I think we can get what you want and dont you say one word about making it wright with me I wish I could doe twice as munsh for you it was just a good excuse fer m to get out of the house you know that girls always like an excuse to get away from home good by Will Ma

BULLARD & PETERSEN
Pioneer Real Estate and Insurance Agency

Fairmont Minn Apr 16th 1891

My Dear Will

Your letter is recieved I have looked up the Popple property & find his title good except the mortgage of \$175 due July 27th 1891.

Peterson owns seven lots joining it on the West and offer them for \$25 each.

He thinks the property worth \$450 or possibly \$500 in trade. The lots are very small only 25 x 100 and are in the middle of the block fronting on two streets.

The house is well built & I think if you can trade for \$100 and Popple pay up the mortgage it will be a fair trade.

We have about finished moving wheat & oats but the weather is very backward and the ground quite wet yet.

The mare had a colt a week ago and is all right. The colt is a dandy. bay mare and the smartest colt for the age I ever saw.

No news & all well

yours
William Bird

HEADQUARTERS CO. D.
SECOND REGIMENT M. N. G.

Fairmont, Minn. March 18th, 1891

My Dear Will

I ship you to day three tubs of butter. One from French 42 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs at 18 one from Santee 23 lbs at, 17 & one from Ward at 22 lbs, at, 20. Butter is very scarce and high. Nearly everyone who makes good butter is shipping it and several are shipping to Blaine.

I think it will soon be cheaper here as cows are just coming in now.

The weather is cold here yet and the snow has not gone off much yet. No seeding will be done here this month. Minn asked in her last letter if I would rent you the farm. Now if things turn out bad there with you and you want to come home in the fall I will rent the farm to you.

Jim is writing to day and he will give you all the news. All well here

Yours
William

Fairmont June 18th 1891

My Dear Will

I ship you to-day three tubs' butter 41.41.42 lbs net.

I recived Minn & Harrys letters of the 6 & 7th. The boys all started for camp at Lake City last night. Charley went with them so Ben and I are running the place alone. We are milking 8 cows and they are doing well feed has not been so good for years.

We have had a good deal of rain lately and crops are looking well. Wheat & Oats are just beginning to show the heads. Betty's colt is doing finely and is a very good one and the other colt is a daisy but the mare is getting rather thin for she has worked hard.

Charley has been working for Holmes Fowler building a barn. and Jim has been breaking in Co with Will Brown. He is talking of taking the cream route again when he comes back from camp. Sinclair offered him \$2.25

Uncle Johnnie starts for Wash about 1st of July. You should write and ask him to come by the way of Blaine.

I am glad Em got along without any trouble and I suppose she is having a great time with all of her folks. We are not raising any calves this year but are giving all the milk to the pigs we have 12 fine early pigs and two sows they are doing well on milk & grass alone but they have about all the milk they want. Grandma sprained her foot the other day and is quite lame.

There is no more news. All well

Yours

William Bird

I found I could not pre-pay the butter without waiting.

W B

Fairmont May 21st 1891

My Dear Will

I ship you to[^]day[^] by freight 3 tubs butter 31. 30 ½. 20 ½ net.
Freight pre paid & receipt enclosed. Keep one of the tubs for yourselves. We had a fine shower last night & I think it will start the flax up. It has softened up the breaking and made it much easier work.

I am sorry to hear that you are out of work but I think you had better stick to it for the summer & try and get closed up there and then if things look no better you had better come home.

The prospect for crops this year is not good unless we get more rain soon. Dont send any money home for the butter as I can take it out of your money here.
All well

Yours

William Bird

Fairmont Minn
July 26th 1891

My Dear Nephew

After wating so long a time I will try and answer your letter of long a go so long that I have forgotten the date.

We have just comenced harvesting I cut my barley (10 acres) last Monday and just started on the oats yesterday. I expect to thrash my barley to-morrow. Crops (wheat, oats & barley) are fair not as heavy as we once thought they would be. But we have no occasion to complain

The season has been rather cold and corn as a general thing is rather backward. Grass is also rather light, I cant tell much a bout the Flax crop yet. I hardly think it will everage as good as last year.

The price of wild land has advanced from three to five dollars an acre this year. I dont know of any good land for less than \$12—and from that up to \$15—for wild land and a good deal has changed hads at those figures and even higher. There appears to be very few sails in improved farms. The demand appears to be for wild land. Most of the people think land will go higher. If it was not for the flax I think it would bother some of them to pay for the land with what crops they could get off it. It is generaly believed that as soon as the wild land is all sold, the improved farmes will take a big jump

The boys are all at home a presant Will expects to go to school in Fairmont this fall & winter. Ed will go to Minneapolis to take a coars in a Buisness Collage if nothing happens to prevent it. I dont know what Frank will do, And I expect to run the ranch.

I was glad to hear that you got your pay from brick men. I hope you will be as fortunate with the Lown warrants. Are they making any move twords redeeming them. And what is the presant out-look. I am sorry that country is not paining out better. I was in hope that you had found a good place to live. If it had been as good as we was in hopes it would be I think your Father me would have both been there as soon as we could have sold out here.

I had a letter from Arthur Payne a short time ago. He appears to like the country very much. I also had a letter from your Uncle Jim who appears to be satisfied.

Give my respects to Minnie & Harry. As line from any of you is always execptiable

Rrft Yours
R J McCadden

Fairmont July 1st 1891

My Dear Will

I ship you to. day three tubs butter 41. 41 ½ . 29 lbs. Keep one of them for yourself. I shipped by Ex to St Paul (Ex pre paid) and by freight from St Paul (not paid). They dont run refrigerators from here to St Paul.

The boys are all home from camp & Charley is working at carpenter work for Jake Davis.

Crops are looking well except some of the flax which was re-seeded.
All well here

Yours

William Bird