Soldier John Cronk's Letter Describing Training Camp

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Letter "Transcript of Letter to Charles Palmer"

Transcription of: Cronk, John. Civil War letter to Charles Palmer. Madison, 1862. In the manuscript collection. Wisconsin Historical Society.

CAMP RANDALL. Madison! 20 the 1862 der Charles Palmer Camp Harce Hunosh ar friend . I received your detter morning and was glad to hear that apour and the Berlin bags were held in such high esteen on the lamp graind rest of the days are and the fay Lower had been sich but pretty well nour spon manded to Anou something about and leamh and have over texts more fixed up and what we had to eat dec. - once mile I am carep is alian mest of the laitty of Madisan eamp ground is any thing . I should think there is about

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farty acres in it on the east and suith east sides there are barracks and the guard hause . and a place called In I. Andrews where our Sutter peeps his Shop and an the north side there is some more barrachs and and ald lating hause mare property called appenature Machinery on the mest side is the shaspitals quarter clasters Departments tents and the officers quarters. There is some 2.300 Soldiers here now and it is not very lone some here now hat we all want to be of far the land of live the way and sent are filled what would pupple me to tell for me Stap in the larrachs these barrachs are sharty's that mad used for Stabling horsed and cattle at the time of the fare they have been white what hed inside and cleaned out and fired up for more they are quiete la mostable and I think

there is more room in them than there is in the tents the may have them fixed here the tents are all round secept the officers inhich are square when me came down here me had a us mictuals ecched for use but now sol draw our rations and each them our selved me have bread heef parts sutated rice. Sugar. Keans. Syrup and butter four or five times per week, we have huilt an eating hause by audelues. we have plenty of fics here some times and not much at others there is considerable lickness here at present with the cheasles save throat and had colds . we like any officers mell expecially the died efficient. the bays send their best withes te you I can think of ne more at present so good by forthis time please mite as soon as your get this Direct bampany of. Jaurs in full John brouk

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Camp Randall Madison 30th, 1862

Mr. Charles Palmer. Camp Harvey,

Dear friend,

I received your letter this morning and was glad to hear that you and the Berlin boys were held in such high esteem by those on the campground. I and the rest of the boys are well. Jay Lower has been sick but is pretty well now. You wanted to know something about our camp and how our tents were fixed up and what we had to eat, etc. Well our camp is about one mile west of the city of Madison. The campground is anything but square. I should think there is about forty acres in it. On the east and southeast sides there are barracks and the guard house and a place called LL. Andrews where our sutter keeps hisshop and on the north side there is some more barracks and our old eating house more properly called opperative machinery. On the west side is the hospitals quarter masters departments tents and the officers quarters. There is some 2,200 soldiers here now and itis not very lonesome here now but we all want to be of the far land of Dixie. The way our tents are fixed up it should/would puzzle me to tell for we stay in the barracks. These barracks are shantys that was used for stabling horses and cattle at the time of the fare. They have been white washed inside and cleaned out and fixed up for men. They are quite comfortable and I think there is more room in them than there is in the tents. The way have them fixed here the tents are all round except for the officers which are square. When we came down here we had our ?victuals cooked for but now we draw our rations and cook them ourselves. We have bread, beef, pork, potatoes, rice, sugar, beans, syrup and butter four or five times per week. We have built an eating house by ourselves. We have plenty of food here some times and not much at others. There is considerable sickness here at present with measles, sore throat and bad colds. We like our officers well, especially the tried officers. The boys send their best wishes to you. I can think of no more at present so good by for this time. Please write as soon as you get this.

Direct Company A. Yours in full, John Cronk

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