

Sargent
Camp of Mass 28th Regt.
Yorktown Plains Va April 20th 1862.

(KIA CSA Mine)

Please accept
my best wishes
for your happiness
and prosperity.

I have neglected writing to you
a long time, and have no excuse for so
doing. I have not heard from you since
you left Camp Calafornia, at Clouet's
Hills. Since then, we have had some very
pleasant times, and some as unpleasant
as can well be imagined. Our march
from Cockleville to this place, was through
deep mud, and a drenching rain.
Just as soon as we arrived here, we were
marched up in front of a heavy fort;
and soon drew a fire upon us, which in-
duced Gen Martindale to give us the ben-
-efit of a peice of woods, as a cover.
I see the newspapers have made but
little mention of our Regiment, in their
accounts of the advance upon Yorktown.
I am somewhat surpris'd at this, for
we were acting as skirmishers, and
had hot work to do. I think your

Brother Will tell you that he does not want to see any warmer work than he had that day. Woodell's Company, and Capt Brit's, were marched out in an open field, within four hundred yards of the fort, and were unmercifully peppered with grape, and canister shot. That movement was not a mistake, as the papers say, but was made to ascertain the force of the enemy. Capt Griffin, of Griffin's Battery, said that their guns were silenced. Col Gene said they were not; and he thought they had other guns, which had not yet been used. Gen Martindale told him to ascertain the fact; he did so, by means of these two companies, and found five new guns, which had not before fired; Col Gene went with them in two hundred yards of the rebel works, and carefully drew a plan of their works; and when the guns opened, he took the position of such gun, and returned. He was knocked down by a rail, which had been struck by a shell. It was not hurt. He stands very high here.

I was in the woods with the regiment sup-
-porting the artillery, and you may as well
believe we had a lively time. Shells, and shot
were flying among us for two hours, in a
lively manner. John Collingill, Carr's
old wagoner, was shot about ten feet
from me. He died in twenty four hours.

Wardwell had 7 men wounded.

Extensive preparations are now being made,
to bombard ~~the~~ Fort Mifflin, and the ball will
soon be open soon. We have had fine weather. We
have got seven bridges built across Mon-
-mouth's Creek, and are mounting heavy siege
guns, and mortars. Mr. Lellan is bound
to save the lives of his troops, and capture
the rebel army here, if possible.

Massachusetts is well represented here.

We have the 12th, 7th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 15th, 16th, 18th,
19th, 20th, 22nd, 24th. I believe Charlie Osgood
has a brother in the 15th. I have not seen the
regiment, but it is on our line, somewhere.
I heard a sergeant of that regiment, say
that they lost within two of half of the reg-

iment; - at Ball's Bluff.

Royce is more unpopular than ever. He seems to be half asleep. Noyson is pretty well played out. Some officers showed a little of the white feather, but nothing could be more satisfactory than the manner in which the 22^d went through their first fire. The first shell, which passed directly over our heads, was received with a cheer. In the woods, we were obliged to lie flat on the ground, to escape the storm. I saw a fallen tree at first; but a grape shot passing within ten inches of my head, admonished me to seek a position close to the bosom of our mother Earth. There were many narrow escapes in the wood. Two men of Fallett's, or Martin's Battery were killed. They lived in the same house, and their wives are sisters.

The effect this battle to virtually end the war. so I hope soon to see you, and all other friends. I have not yet got frightened, in the least, and don't expect to. If I get shot, it may as well be me, as any body. Some must fall. Give my respects to Charlie Osgood if you see him, and any other acquaintances of mine, with whom you may meet. Write to me soon. Direct to Major C. G. 22^d Mass Regt Gen Fitz John Porter's Division. You must excuse me for not stamping this letter. I cannot obtain a stamp. I expect some from home,

we are on Chagnon's farm, and on the very
 field upon which the army of Cornwallis laid
 down arms, on the 19th of October 1781. I have
 no doubt that this Second Siege of Yorktown
 will result like the first, in ending the war.
 One of the sharpshooters died last night, of Ty-
 phus Fever. a coffin is now being made for
 him, out of hard-head boxes. You made
 a point, when you got out of the Regiment.
 You would have had a tough time of it with us,
 now. All of our wagons were left at Alexandria,
 and we now have mule teams. I would not
 drive one of them; neither would I drive a four
 horse ambulance, at Gen Porter's head quarters.
 I had the chance, but the pay is only \$14.00 per month,
 and I prefer the ranks any way. None of our
 drivers get over that sum. Mule Joe; Carr;
 Perkins; Wilde; Fred Richardson, and Wood-
 ward, drive the regimental teams. Whitney;
 Fenno; Milford; Britton; ^{and} Harry drive the four
 horse ambulances for Gen Porter's head quarters.
 Woodliss is with Dr Schell of the 4th R. I.
 Battery, on Griffin's, I have forgotten which.
 Sweet is at Gen Martindale's; so is Burn

been the offer of one of the large drums
Capt Williams would not let his go.
The coats for Co R. Jordan coats for Co B.
Major is on the right of Co B. and likes it much.
Beals strikes an excellent hammer and takes care
of several of the top round, as usual the old
Judge with us, but has nothing to sell. Tobacco
is in great demand, also writing materials.
We are under pretty strict rules not being
allowed to go out of camp without a
pass: and a pass is somewhat difficult to
obtain. We shall soon have mounted about
two hundred pieces of heavy sea pieces, among
them, several mortars. A gunboat is
near us, in York River, and will assist in the
bombardment. Our letters come regular &
some boxes have come on here. I have seen the
Monitor, and have been inside of Fort Mifflin. I was
all over the rebel works at Big Bethel, and stood upon
the spot where Lieut. Greble fell. We had a splendid
sail from the Patuxent, and the ship was
seen. The ship's bell tolled, and the bands played dirges.
The estate at Mt Vernon is in plain sight from the river.



W. H. Kelton

S. A. M.

Oliver H. Perry Sargent.
Uncle Jonathan Sargent's brother
of Essex Mass.

In the 1850's.

22nd MASS. VOL'S. CO. 6

Picture came from

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