

Dear Uncle George

Attaching you are a  
pen & ink sketch of  
our Reading Room  
as it appears at  
times of still  
or when we are on  
duty at anything

Camp at Sandy, Va  
Virginia Sept. 1863



I take

great care that

our papers dont take legs like

the Sacks I sent yesterday, and

the table is always clean when the Company are away.

We have other useful things here; below is a sketch from  
life of one of them, who is attached to our Brigade Head  
quarters, he is quite useful for carrying water, which

he is here represented doing, as he carries three buckets  
each trip, full of water, his head is most admirably  
shaped for the purpose and fits the flat bottom of the

pail nicely, he is of a very lively disposition,  
but cannot bear to hear profane language; if  
the men use any in his presence he absquatulates

directly, they worry him considerably about the  
winches in this neighborhood; ask him how  
many pickaninies he has manufactured since

we encamped here he puts up with all the abuse  
the men heap on him with cheerfulness, he attends  
our regular Sunday worship and prays quite vigorously,

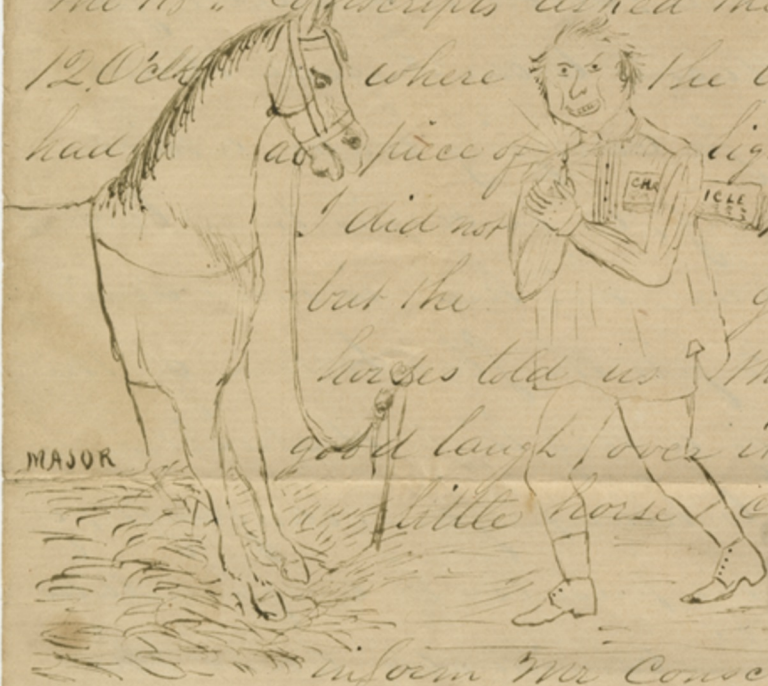




he knows he's a negro and that he must not be caught out of place, he thinks he is properly named when called a Nigger (at least that is the way the boys have brought him up) but he is liked by all the brigade notwithstanding his black.

The small tent in the rear of the Reading Room or Tent, is our (myself and bunkmates) Sleeping apartment, you will notice the bunk in the illustration is raised about 15 inches from the ground, our Knapsacks are pillows, Our Rifles hang from the top of the tent inside close to the ridge pole, to keep them dry and clear of our heads, therefore I could not show them in the picture.

We have had considerable fun to day with some of the Conscripts that arrived yesterday for the 118<sup>th</sup> P.Vs, & 18<sup>th</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup> Mass, Regts, but to commence with the fun one of the 118<sup>th</sup> Conscripts asked the Major's Horse last night at 12 O'clock where the backhouse was situated, he had a piece of lighted Candle with him but did not hear if he found it or not, but the guard who watches the Staff horses told us this morning, that he had a good laugh over it at the time, he says the little horse cocked up his ears and looked awful wise but could not inform Mr Conscript; the Guard thinks the Conscript done without, as he noticed him trying to find his way back, One of them came to me to night to find out where his Regt was, he had turned around twice so of course got mixed, I soon sent him right, for which he gave me a piece of tobacco, which he said is Superior,





Some of them Cooked all their Pork at one Meal; Some have  
eat all their rations (5 days) of Sugar, already and some of  
them have been robbed of Blankets, Coats, long Boots &c  
which they left laying around loose, but one fellow has  
been placarded almost all the Afternoon with the sentence  
Drafted on account of his bad Smell, To night there is  
to be a dance here and already the (2) Fiddles, Guitars, Tambourines  
& Bones send forth their Melodious discord to de Summer  
breezes, and I should entirely spoil if I missed it, (it  
is to be a Stag party, as you know we dont associate with  
the ladies now a days,) we dont permit the weaker  
sex here, so you see we will have or expect, a lively time,  
The Minstrel band is part of ours and part of the 22<sup>nd</sup> Mass  
but they have been practicing together for some weeks  
past, we have had a large hospital Tent pitched in  
the Central part of our Parade Ground (we have no other use  
for hospital tents at present) which is illuminated with  
Sperm Candles, and the ground has been leveled off smooth.  
I am afraid I cannot resist the temptation, and I will  
therefore have to defer further sketching, until next  
letter. Good news has reached us of the possession  
by our troops of all of Morris Island, and the united attack  
of Gunboats on Sumpter, which I like much, give  
them thunder, and burn Charleston, Cut off Gragg in  
Challenoga, I mean his supplies, then ride Ferdinand  
& Seymour on a rail Tard & Feathered, and the Rebellion  
will almost Cave - if not altogether, I hear also  
from some of the 118<sup>th</sup> P. Ts. that 5 more Conscripts  
are in their hands awaiting trial for desertion, and



if they are shot I will illustrate the execution,  
Excuse the soiled appearance of this sheet  
but I did not do it, I obtained it of Co. C. as  
I could not get any this size at the sutlers although  
I offered him 10 cts for a sheet, I have been interrupted  
40 times in this letter and the sketches, and you will  
no doubt disapprove many points but bear gently  
this time, Give my best respects to all the  
folks, Mr. Sturges, Pop, Mother, Brothers Sisters,  
and my little wife Rosy, tell her I have more hope  
now of a speedy termination of the war than I ever had,  
and that I hope to see her soon, Tell everybody  
I am awfully sick, almost dead, and the best  
will soon, My love to yourself wife and little  
Switches - Yours in haste for the few friends  
Your affectionate Nephew  
Carl

P.S. (1. May 608)

I have just received a Sunday Dispatch and News  
from Pop you, with Pop & Sons Catalogue enclosed, I hope  
the Hicks arrived safe and alive, they were put in  
alive - and I hope they were not fools enough to die  
yet - give my regards to Wiggley if you write to him  
tell him we are here enjoying ourselves instead of making  
some attempt to release him & others from that hell  
above ground - tell him if they itch to scratch,  
Yours in haste  
Carl