

Soldier John Cronk's Letter Describing Training Camp

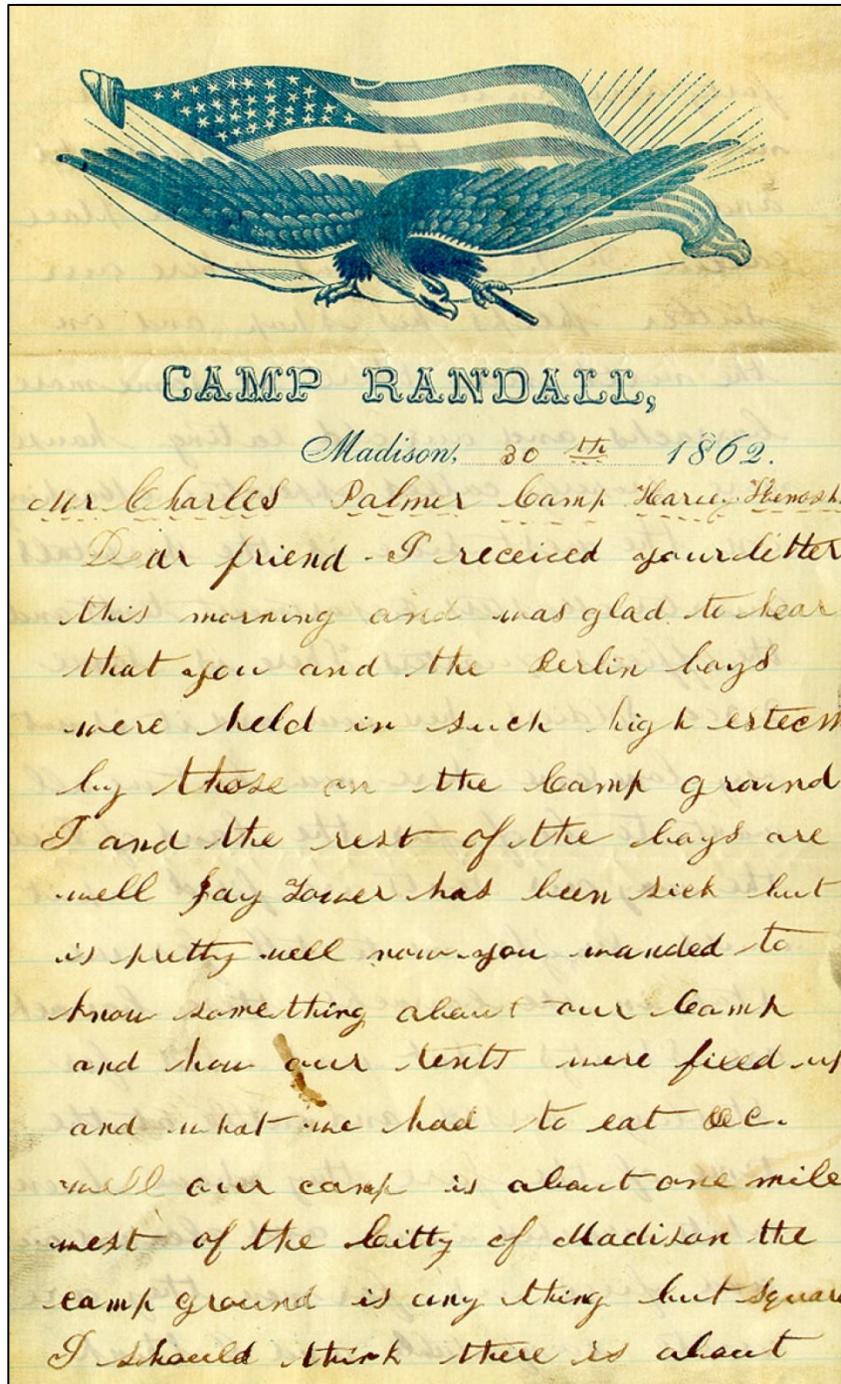
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Letter "Transcript of Letter to Charles Palmer"

Transcription of: Cronk, John. Civil War letter to Charles Palmer. Madison, 1862.
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forty acres in it on the east and north east sides there are barracks and the guard house and a place called Ft. J. Andrew where our sutler keeps his shop and on the north side there is some more barracks and our old eating house more properly called cooperative machinery on the west side is the hospital's quarter messengers Department's tent and the officers quarters. There is some 2,300 Soldiers here now and it is not very lonesome here now but we all want to be of far the land of Dixie the way our tents are fixed up it 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 cleared 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 they may have them fixed here the tents are all round except the officers which are square when we came down here we had our victuals cooked for us but now we draw our rations and cook them ourselves we have bread, beef, pork, potatoes, rice, sugar, beans, S. grub, and butter four or five times per week, we have built an eating house by ourselves we have plenty of fire here some times and not much at others there is considerable sickness here at present with the measles sore throat and had 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 of yours in full John Brock

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 his shop and on the north side there is some more barracks and our old eating house more properly called operative 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 it is 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