

Letter #1 (White Union Soldier):Mound City Hospital Oct. 24th '62

Dear Affectionate brother I am happy to acknowledge the reception of yours of the 20th and to hear of your sound health fore it is a great blessing and something I haven't had fore some time and I begin to thin I never be able to perform the duties of camp life again . . . My wound is getting along fine and a good deal better then the doctor or myself anticipated I think it will be healed up in a few weeks but I cant tell whether I will have as great use of it as I had before or not. My health is not very good I have a pain in my brest and also neuralgia in the hand last night I had considerable fever but I feel better to day. I have wrote to all our folks since I cam hear but I haven't got any answers from none yet. I haven't heard from father or Will fore nearly three months. Now by lady love is more attentive fore I got a letter from her yesterday. She is all right on the goose question.

I have wrote to my officers to send me a furlow and I will get it if it is in there power to do so. You say in your letter that you or your Regt is not in fore freeing the negroes I am sorry to heare it you wanted to know what I and my comrades thot of the negro question. I think old Abes proclamation is all right and there is very few old soldiers that is against it it is my opinion that yourself and the greater part of your Regiment will be in favor of it before you are in the service six months. I was of the same opinion of your self when I first came in service but I have learned better. You said you thought the thing would come to a finish by spring if the negroes was left alone but I think you will soon find out different fore it is my opinion that the ware never will come to a Close while the nogroes is left wheare they are to rais supplies fore the rebel army. Even if we could suppress the rebellion and leave the main root wheare it was before, it wouldnt be long before they would try the same game as before . . . but if we take a way the main root of evil and confiscate all ther property they will have nothing to fight for heareafter. . . . Old Abe gave them ninty days and that was long enough fore them to come to terms and saved tghere property and negroes but is seems like they wanted to go the whole hog or none. Now I think it perfectly right to take the hog and leave them none and then if they aint satisfied I am in fore banishing ever Rebel and rebel simpathiser from the U.S. I am a whole sole Union man and believe in giving the rebels a lesson to be remembered in after generations then we will never be troubled with civil war again. Well I think I give you a very good sample of the opinions of myself nad comrades. Hoping you will pronounce it good I will close the subject by hoping to see Abrahams proclamation on confiscation and Emancipation carried into effect. . . P.S. I am not in favor of freeing the negroes and leaving them to run free and mingle among us neither is sutch the intention of old Abe but we will send them off and colonize them the government is already making preperations fore the same and you may be assured it will be carried into effect. I have wrote a great deal more than I felt able to when I set down and I have nothing more of importance to communicate at present therefore I will come ot a cloe by requesting you to write soon under the present circumstances you will please escuse poore writing and mistakes.

Address J.R. Barney
Ward H Mound City Hospital
Illinois
I remain your affectionate brother
Jasper Barney

John Dinsmore Papers, Illinois State Historical Library

Source: <http://teachinghistory.org/best-practices/examples-of-historical-thinking/25048>

Round City Hospital Oct 24th 62

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Regt is not in favor of freeing the negroes
I am sorry to hear it you wanted to know
what I said on contracts that of the negro question

I think old Abes proclamation is all right
and there is very few old soldiers that is
against it - it is my opinion that yourself
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be in favor of it - before you are in the service
six months I was of the same opinion of
your self when I first came in service but
I have learned better . . . you said you thought
the thing would come to a process by Spring if
the negroes was let alone but I think you will
soon find out different for it is my opinion
that the war never will come to a close while
the negroes is left - where they are to raise supplies
for the rebel army . . . Even if we could suppress
the rebellion and leave the main root where
it was before, it wouldnt be long before they
would try the same game as before . . .

But if we take away the main root of evil
and confiscate all their property they will have
nothing to fight - for hereafter . . .

Old Abe give them ninety days and that
was long enough for them to come to terms

and saved their property and negroes
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Address J. R. Barney

ward H. Mount City Hospital
Illinois

I remain your affectionate brother

Jasper R. Barney H.P.