

[Written at top in different handwriting, in pen]
Mothers Brother John

Pensacola, June 6th 1862

Dear Sister

It is some time since I have heard from you, and I thought perhaps you had not got my letters. I have received a letter from Martha Cathy. Charles had writ[t]en to her to find out my address. I got one from Aunt Olive, he had writ[t]en to her also for my address, but she had forgot[t]en it.

I have writ[t]en a number of letters to you and sent my address in all but one. I should like to hear from Charles very much. I wondered why he could not get my address when I had sent it to you so many times.

Well, I will write again and perhaps you may get this.

The 75th Vol. [?] [75th New York Infantry] are at present quartered in the City of Pensacola. It is a very pleasant place and I should like to stay here all Summer if we have to stay anywhere. I presume you will hear of the Evacuation of Pensacola long before this reaches you, so I will not give a very lengthy discription [*sic*] of it. As soon as the rebels heard that we had taken New Orleans, they made preparations for leaving Pensacola. They moved some of their best Guns and spiked the rest, and on the 10th of May they set fire to all the Government Property they could and left. The destruction of property was immense [*sic*] nearly thirty millions of dollars. The Marine Hospital alone cost four million. They did not sucede [succeed] in distroying [*sic*] the Marine Barracks, Fort Barrancas nor the light house, all of which was found to be undermined. The spikes have all been removed out of the Guns they left, and mounted in their proper places. The 75th cros[s]ed over the next day after the fire and landed at Fort Barrancas nine miles from the City of Pensacola. There is a small village called Warrington there and another called W[o]lsey near.

The City of Pensacola has the appearance of beeing [*sic*] quite Ancient. Most of the buildings are wood and in a dalapatated [dilapidated] condition the streets are not paved and the side walks are very poor. We have a very pleasant sight [site] for our camp. It is located on a public square near the center of the city. The city is nearly all deserted. There was a good many came back since we have been here, some of the People wer[e] so ignorant as to believe that we wer[e] beasts that we had hornes [*sic*] and tails like an ox and that we would hook them to death and tread them under foot. The suf[f]erring of the poor has been very great. Every thing was scarce and high, there was no work, and no pay for what little they did do. They wer[e] offer[e]d high wages board and cloth[e]s if they would enlist, or death if they would not. Many have been pressed into the servis [service] in this way, those that would not enlist had to flee for their lives and live the best way they could. The greater portion of the inhabitants now in the city are Blacks,

and it is quite amusing to hear them talk about the Yankeys [*sic*] as they call us, and the secesh.

I will tell you the price of some things here, flour \$25 per Barrell [*sic*], Bacon 50 cts. Per lbb. [pound], sugar 35 cts. per lbb., Tea [\$3.00] per pound, Butter one dollar per [lbb.], Eggs 75 cts. per Doz., milk 30 cts. Per qt. [quart]. Coffee 1.50 per lbb., shoes[7.00 per pr [pair]. Boots 15.00 per pr, &c. [etcetera], and every thing els[e] in the same ratio.

This is the city price. Of cours[e] we get our things much cheaper. I have paid 50 cts. a lbb. for Butter and twenty cts. a qt. for milk.

Well, I must close for this time. The weather is very pleasant, and it is quite healthy now. My health was never better than at preasant [*sic*]. There is Green corn here but none in markt [sic] there is oranges, lemonds [*sic*], figs, plumbs [*sic*], peaches and grapes, none of which are ripe yet except the plumbs, there is not ma[n]y fruit trees here only some in the door yards, all kinds of flowe[r]s bloom here all the year round.

From your Brother
John

Transcribed by Katrina Fields, University of Florida, 2008 and Nicole Milano, University of Florida, 2009.