

Camp near Vicksburg Miss March 18/63

Dear father I take the present opportunity  
to inform you that I am well as common  
but I with sorrow to say that Alfred is down  
with the fever he was taken the 10 of this month  
& had been getting worse all the time the  
Doctor says he will have a hard spell of it  
he received altho stating that his child  
had die I think I would have been best  
for him if he had not heard of it till  
he got well we are not expecting a fight  
at this time the yankees are all leaving  
& I think it is the best thing they can do  
they tried this place one time & we whipped  
them so bad I think they will not try  
this place again soon I failed in getting my  
discharge I intend to try again soon they has  
been some failed & tried it the second time & they  
come all right I want you to get along the  
best you can I hope I will be there before  
long to help you spring is here they are plan  
ing corn here some is up & has three & four  
blades on it we get corn bread molasses rice  
sugar & some little Bacon it about half spelt  
are drawn but a while back so poor when



it was boiled it made good glue I want to  
know how Mr. Klepper is getting along he had fever  
badly when he heard the cannon firing he said  
if he did not get started home soon he would  
be bedfast I am sorrow hear they have took  
Jasper Gristy away he was all the good Smith  
they was about there I understand you have  
made about three thousand sails this winter  
I want you to put out a large corn crop if this  
war holds on it will be needed flour is worth  
\$1.30 pr bbl. bacon is selling at one dollar pr  
lb. the musketiers are getting very numerous  
the water is getting bad I think in a little  
time we will <sup>have</sup> no running <sup>water</sup> there I will have  
to bring my lines to a close please excuse  
all mistakes & bad writing do nothing more  
but remaining your affectionate son untill  
death write soon write sooner

R. C. Bowman to Joseph Bowman



the 13..1862

Camp Near Richsburg Miss Friday March

Dear Father and Mother it  
with pleasure that I write these few  
lines to you to let you hear from me this  
leaves me in good health at this time and  
also Richard is in tolerable good health at  
the present time I have nothing of interest  
to write to you every thing is quiet here at  
this time not much prospect of a fight  
here I dont think there will be any fight  
at this place the gankes know that it  
is impossible for them to take richsburg  
and therefore I think they will not make  
and attack soon there has been two gunboats  
passed by richsburg since we have been here  
and our men has captured both of them  
they first taken the ganka boat called the  
Queen of the west and repaired it and then  
our men taken the boat called Indianola  
Ben Garst was on the Queen of the west  
when they taken the Indianola he said  
they had very hot work for a few minutes  
I think we can capture all of the boats  
that will pass richsburg of the ganks



don't doo better then they have done I think  
the prospect for peace is very good at this  
time I think we will all get to come home  
By harvest Father I wrote to you in the  
letter I wrote you that I thought Richard  
would be at home in a short time he  
failed in getting his discharge he sent his  
discharge up to General Pemberton and  
he assigned over to the Hospital to wait  
on the sick he is not going to the Hospital  
Col Gregg and Major Reah told him  
to not go to the Hospital that they  
would get him a discharge I will have  
to bring my few lines to a close for this  
time hoping when these few lines comes to  
hand they may find you and all of the  
family in good health and doing well  
give my love to all of the family and also  
to Martha and Children Tell Hannah  
Johnson ~~is~~ that Wash is well

I want you to write to me as soon as  
this comes to hand and give me all of  
the news I have been looking for a letter  
from you for a long time write to me  
after no more at present and still remain  
your affectionate son until death

Alfred Bowman



no chance to get out of the  
way they belong to artillery  
Company the very place that  
all such men ought to be  
where there is no chance to  
escape they will have to do  
there for in that I don't think  
they will follow for old die  
about the time the yankee  
Batterys turns loose on them  
I will have to bring my few  
lines to a close for this time  
Ritchard is in tolerable good  
health he has sent his discharge  
up to General Pemberton he  
will get it in a few days as  
he get it he will start home  
I wrote to Martha today  
the health of the army is very  
bad at this I want you to  
write to me as soon as this  
comes to hand and let me  
hear from you all I have  
only received one letter from  
you since I left home and  
have wrote several to you

Evening February the 25 1863

Camp near Vicksburg Wednesday  
Dear Father and Mother  
it is with pleasure that I  
write these few lines to you  
to let me hear from me I  
am not very well at this time  
I have a very bad cold and  
sore throat for the last few  
days hardly able for duty we  
are exposed so much to the  
rain and cold that is a wonder  
we are all sick hoping when  
these few lines comes to hand  
they may find you all in  
good health and doing  
well I have nothing of much  
importance to write to you  
the yankees are still in site  
of Vicksburg some say they  
are making great preparations  
for a fight at this though I  
don't think they will do  
much I think it impossible  
for them to take this place  
it is so well fortified that  
they never can take it



There has been two of these  
gunboats fast vicksburg since  
we have seen here our men have  
Captured both of them our  
Batterys sunk one yesterday  
27 miles below vicksburg they  
sent to our Regiment to down  
for all of the Carpenters to help  
help raise the Boat there was 3  
went from Capt Bacon Comd  
wash Johnson Henry Branch

and A N Fitzgerald I was not  
well enough to go there was  
several went out of <sup>the</sup> Regiment  
the 2 Boats was the Best Boats  
the gunners how I think our  
Batterys can sink all of the  
Boats that pass this place  
if we can get a few more  
of their Boats we will be  
able to fight them on  
water I dont think there  
will be much fighting here  
I think it is impossible for  
them to land troops at this  
place on the account of high

water they will have to land  
their transports from 50 to 200  
yards of our Batterys and if they  
undertake that our Batterys will  
sink them as fast as they can  
land they have a very large force  
one the opposite side of the river  
one the howsane side I think  
the war is close at hand the  
the gunners are a getting tired  
of being whiped so much and not  
whiping any they began to  
think it is time to stop the  
they know they never can whip  
the south and as it is whips  
to fight much longer

George Stevens John Emert and  
one of Bill Humphres Boys  
was here last sonday write  
Henricks John Banmen  
Donenlaw is here and several  
others from washing ton and  
Carter County they say there  
is no chance to do any  
longer they say they will all  
have to fight and is ~~not~~



7  
father tell Mr Eden that  
Mike was well when he left  
here to you on a gunboat  
on the Yarrow River he left one  
day last week I do not know  
when he will get back to the  
Company tell Hannah that  
wash is well James Gulcher  
is not very well give my  
love to all of the family and  
tell them to write to me  
write often I will write to  
you in a few days and

and give you all of the  
news give my love to  
all of my friends and  
tell them to write to me  
no more at present  
and still remain your  
affectionate son until  
death

A. Fred Bowman

Direct your letters in care of  
Capt Bacon Com # 49 Genl  
Vol Vaughan Brigade