

[Transcribed on 3/18/2022]

Camp Suffolk May the 12th 1863  
Catharine I will try to write a few  
lines to you to let you know that I am  
well and hope that you are all well  
I got a letter from Arvin yesterday  
and you cannot think how glad I was  
to get a letter from one of my brothers  
again May the 13th as I did not  
get time to finish my letter yesterday  
I will try to write a little this morning  
we are at work building our Forts stron-  
ger and are going to cut all of the woods  
down within five miles of here if we get  
time before the Rebs cum here again  
we will find work enough to do so  
that we need not get rusty the soldiers  
are all healthier when we have lots  
of fatiguing to do than they are when  
they lay in Camp and have no work  
to do our regiment is in a good state  
of health now we are having very

[2]

warm weather down here now  
May the 14th I will try to write  
a little more this morning I do not  
get but a few minutes at a time to  
write for it is a busy time with us we  
Chop one day and work on the forts  
the next. there is a report here that  
Richmond is taken but I fear that  
it is not so we have heard so many  
false reports that we cannot tell  
whether to believe any thing we hear  
any more there has a large force gone  
out from here on a Blackwater ex-  
pedition they started yesterday after  
noon there was about ten thous-  
and went out on the road where we  
were at work and they say that there  
was another force went out on another

road and were to meet at Carsville  
about four miles this side of Blackwater  
I cannot tell what success they will  
have but I hope they will take

[3]

Franklin that is a place that  
we have been trying to get ever since  
we have been here but they have  
had to strong a force there for us  
to think of taking them whilest they  
were in their Fortifications and we  
should have to fight in the open field  
our Generals think that they have  
not much force there now they think  
they have taken the most of them up  
to Fredericks Burgh to fight Hooker  
I hope our Army will have good  
success through the month of May  
for it will soon be so hot weather that  
it will kill a great many Soldiers  
if they are obliged to make long  
marches Franklin is situated in  
Blackwater River Charles Dick  
Rufe and Vurn are all well I am sorry  
that you lost your old Sheep but the  
wool will be worth more than a sheep  
would be in common times

[4]

Every Company has three Commissioned  
Officers Captain 1st Lieutenant and  
2nd Lieutenant, five Sergeants and  
eight corporals and the orderly Sergeant  
attends to making all details in his Co.  
and Calls the roll and according to  
the rules of war there has one commissioned  
officer obliged to be at every roll Call we have  
not had A Commissioned  
Officer present at roll Call in a number  
of days our Capt has not paid any  
attention to us for some time and Lieut

Osgood has not payed any attention  
to us since he sent in his Resegnation  
2ond Lieut Burlason is on detached  
Duty he is over seeor of building  
Forts so he is not with us our orderly  
Sargt has to be orderly Capt and  
Lieut our Capt is a good Capt but  
I doe not kno why he has been  
absent from his Co so long wee see  
him every day around in Camp  
I fear that he will resign for  
my part I doe not like to change  
Offisers so often all the offiser wee  
have to go out on fateuigue with  
us is a Corperal and a Corperal is just  
the same as no offisers atall  
D Hall