

[Letter from V. W. Sargent encamped near Vicksburg, Tennessee to his parents in Iowa]

Camp near Vicksburg – March 7th/64

dear parents

I now have an opportunity [opportunity] of sending a letter so will improve the time it has been [been] a long time I have wrote before [before] but my last letter told you the reason

we have just got back from a long march it has been [been] a little over a month ago that we left this place (three miles in the rear of Vicksburg) and in that time we have marched 400 miles right into the heart [heart] of the enemies [enemies] country our regt [regiment] did not have much fighting although we was several times in sight of the rebs and where [where] the shells and balls flew pretty thick we lost three men out of our company killed or

[Page 2]

taken prisoners I stood the march pretty well I had the mumps on both sides pretty hard and marched night and day they was swollid [swollen] about a week and went down and I got over them all right we got back here night before last there was two letters here from you which informed me that you got the \$20 I sent from Memphis and also that the twins and H. Sargent had enlisted we are going away from here tomorrow where we are going I dont [don't] know whether we are going down or up the river if them boots aint dun [done] in time for C [T'ailor?] to bring them dont [don't] send then untill [until] you hear from me again for there is no nowing [knowing] where

[Page 3]

I will be

I expect the boys are on the road long before this time. I hope they will not get to the Regt [regiment] untill [until] we get through the spring campaign We shall take one more trip and then go into summer quarters some where likely

I did not tell you where our trip was it was a right east from Vicksburg we went to the Allabaman [Alabaman] line at a place called Mereiden [Meridian, Mississippi] where several railroads came in we tore up all the railroads for 10 miles burnt all the cars and locomotives all the way out and back we skirmished [skirmished] we expected to have a big fight at M but did not

[Page 4]

I have no time no news so will close

Good By

[list of numbers added together sideways before the signature]

V W Sargent

[next 2 lines unreadable]

at Vicksburg Mississippi the third year of the war

V W Sargent [illegible word]