## 1863-03-12 Leonard D. Carver writes about the condition of the regiment

https://digitalmaine.com/cw\_me\_2nd\_regiment\_corr/499/

Transcription:

Camp Near Falmouth Va. March 12th 1863

Dear Sir:

For the first time I take

the pen to converse with you for a

few moments. We are now enjoying

a period of rest and our increasing

numbers [in?] the benefits derived from it.

It is quite like Summer her now except that

mud rules the road. The army is in

good condition and under a skillful leader,

and if placed on an equal with Rebels no one

need fear for the result. The conscription

act is received with great favor by the army, and the

only fault found is that it was not pressed

before. We hear the government intends to keep

our Regt. another year; many of the men are regularly

enlisted but for two years and any attempt to keep them

longer will cause trouble. I am enlisted but for

two years; yet, I intend to stay until the war is ended.

Many of the men are anxious to get home

this spring, and there is a continual uproar about

it; for this and other reasons I wish to get clear

of the Regt either by transfer or reenlistment;

but no one can reenlist; neither can they can

they be transfered unless promoted.

I am therefore induced to ask your assistance

although I have no claims on you either as a

friend or relative. Enclosed you will find [?]

of two letters written to me by a former member of

this Regt. He was 1st Lieut. of a Co. I answered his

first letter accepting the offer; the second letter explains

itself. I showed the letters to my Capt. and he

advised me to write to you or some other

prominent man; and his recommendation

together with a favorable notice from those at home

forwarded to the Governor might place me in

a more favorable position. Many sneer

at the idea of arming the blacks but if we fight

for freedom why not fight with the banners of

freedom floating over us and why not fight

by the side of the oppressed. For my part I am

tired of fighting in a political army for this

or that particular General. I want to get from

politics to principles; then I can fight with a

whole heart. Every day brings us nearer

the death struggle of the rebellion and more

earnest and deadly will be the work before us than

that of 62. But we are ready, no one thinks

now we are weak, except the howling

cur dog traitors of North

It is yet to be ascertained what name

history will give such beings no word of our

language should be degraded to designate them

[?] Perhaps you may think me

rather bold to be making application

for an officers commission but I have learned

that no one can expect aid fro others unless

he helps himself. The two letters I send

not because I wish them known by the world

but because it appeared to me they might give

you some hint how to assist me if you were so

disposed. As might be expected I was somewhat

disappointed on receiving the last one.

I would like to receive an answer to

this. If you decline assisting me say so frankly

and I will respect you for it; if on the other

hand you will assist me what you can I will

repay you in any way within my power besides

paying you for whatever [?] it put you to

to obtain the chance for me.

Now I will close and may the kind Father

who rules over and above all this noisy strife

of human passions, ever bless us with

a free and peaceful nation.

Most respectfully yours

Leonard D. Carver

Co. D, 2 Maine Regt

Washington DC

Mr. Wm. [?]

LaGrange

Maine

*Transcription produced by the DigitalMaine Transcription Project*