

Newport. Ports May 27<sup>th</sup>, 1861  
Monday 3 o'clk P.M. Virginia -

Dear Mary:

This morning when we left Hampton we expected before now to have <sup>had</sup> a severe battle - But we have occupied this point without seeing a single soldier - (This is a sheet of paper that Stearns found in a secession house that our surgeon has taken possession of for the use of the sick - The above heading written in ink was written by the rebel owner of the establishment, and I suppose the name of the town where we are is Newport, tho' I don't know - We are on the point of land formed by York <sup>(?)</sup> river and the bay - the point north or above the mouth of the river. I suppose we are not far from the old York town battle-field -) (wrong)

We left Hampton this morning about 5 o'clk. The reveille beat at 3 1/2 o'clk at which time we ~~start~~ attended roll call, then took our breakfast and struck tents, moved our baggage into a neighboring barn & by 5 were ready to start - The Northfield Company remained behind to guard our baggage - The men took with them only what they could <sup>carry</sup> on their backs - our coats, blankets, & knapsacks <sup>+ haversacks</sup> - We were ordered to be prepared for two days without tents or provisions, rain or shine - Every man had forty rounds of cartridges. No one knew where we were