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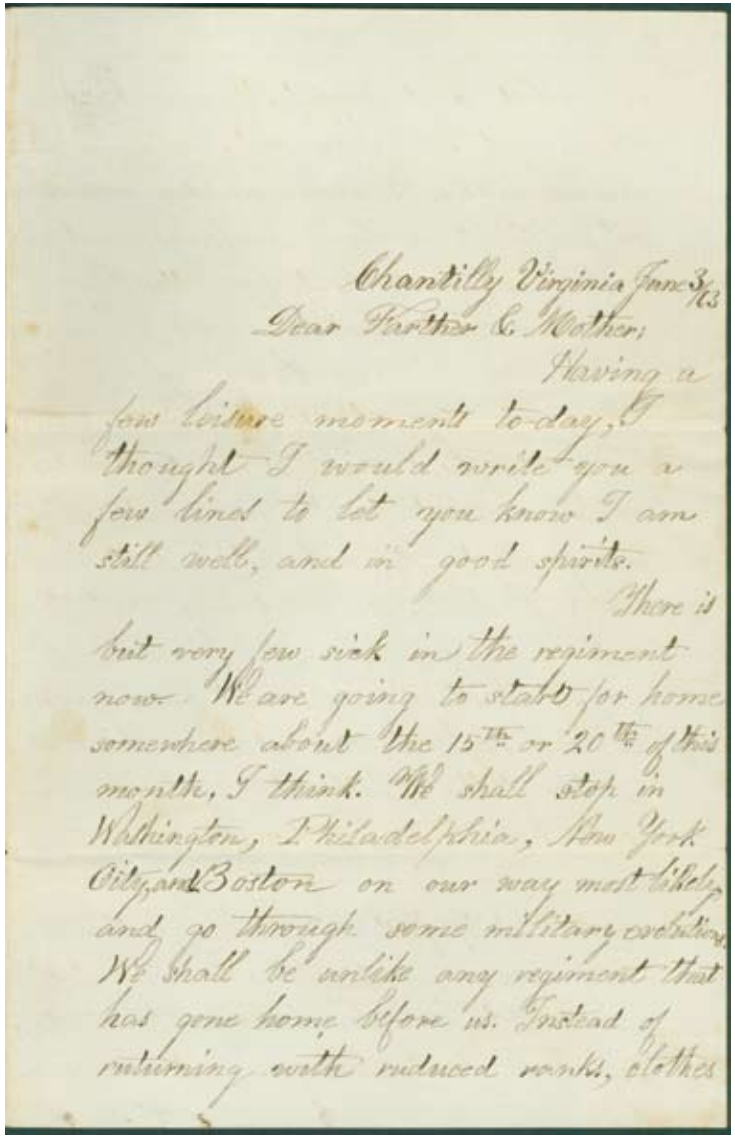

Chantilly Virginia June 3/63
Dear Farther & Mother;
Having a
few leisure moments to-day, I
thought I would write you a
few lines to let you know I am
still well, and in good spirits.
There is
but very few sick in the regiment
now. We are going to start for home
somewhere about the 15th or 20th of this
month, I think. We shall stop in
Washington, Philadelphia, New York
City, and Boston on our way most likely,
and go through some military evolutions.
We shall be unlike any regiment that
has gone home before us. Instead of
returning with ruduced ranks, clothes

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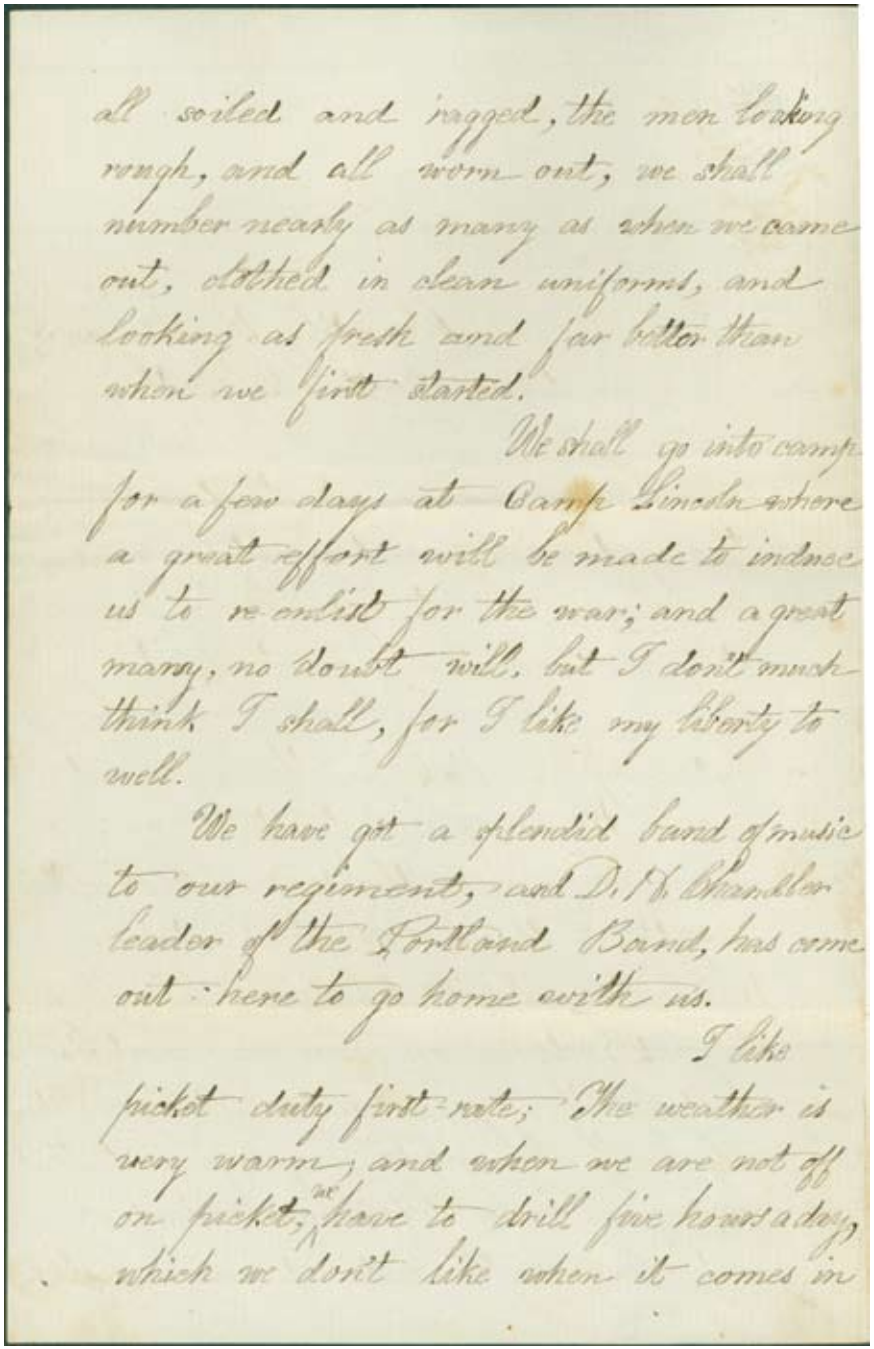
Date: June 3, 1863
Description: Leonard Valentine on end of enlistment



all soiled and ragged, the men looking rough, and all worn out, we shall number nearly as many as when we came out, clothed in clean uniforms, and looking as fresh and far better than when we first started.

We shall go into camp for a few days at Camp Lincoln where a great effort will be made to induce us to re-enlist for the war; and a great many, no doubt will, but I don't much think I shall, for I like my liberty to well.

We have got a splendid band of music to our regiment, and D. H. Chandler leader of the Portland Band, has come out here to go home with us.

I like picket duty first-rate; The weather is very warm; and when we are not off on picket, we have to drill five hours a day, which we don't like when it comes in

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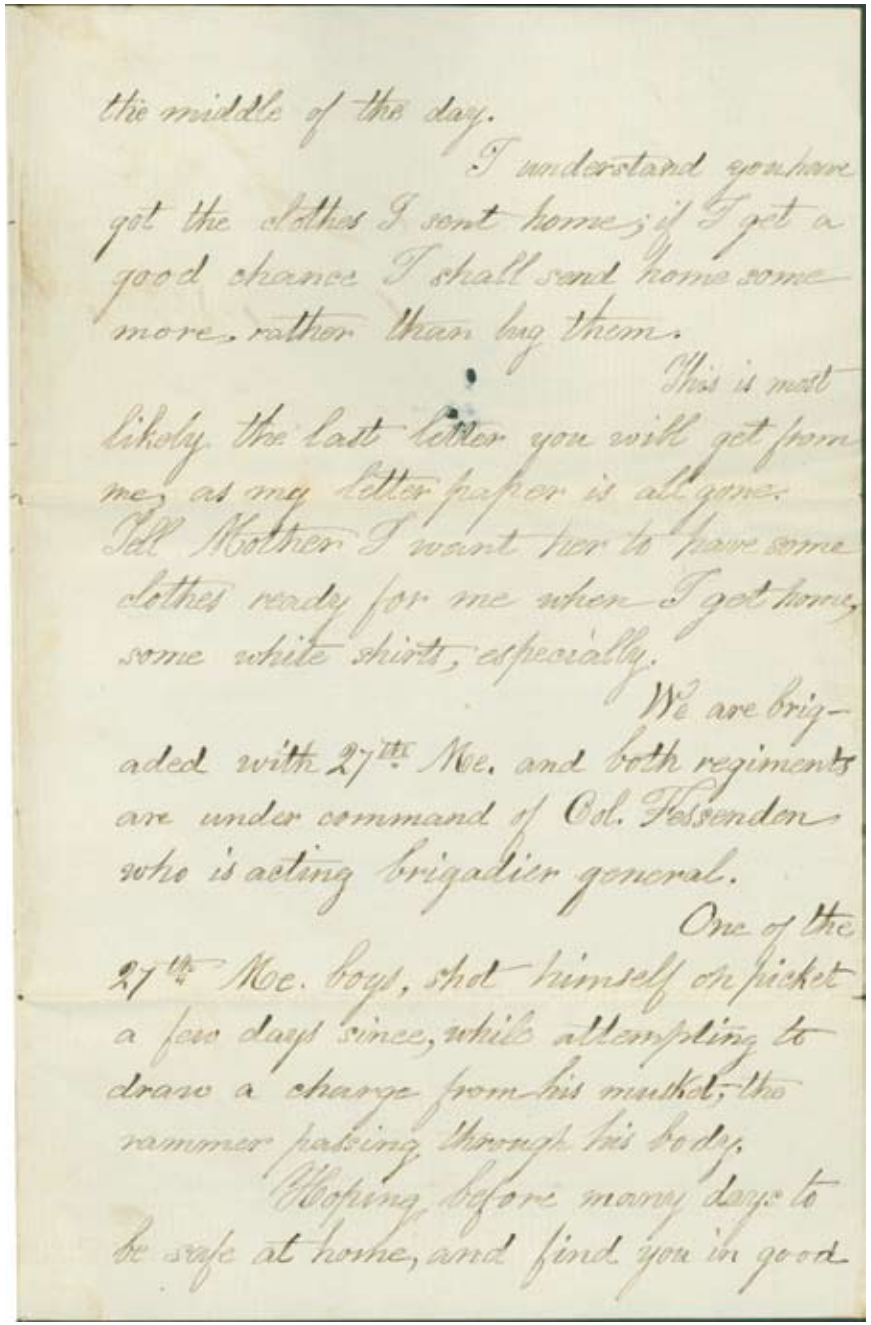

the middle of the day.

I understand you have got the clothes I sent home; if I get a good chance I shall send home some more rather than lug them.

This is most likely the last letter you will get from me, as my letter paper is all gone. Tell Mother I want her to have some clothes ready for me when I get home, some white shirts, especially.

We are brigaded with 27th Me. and both regiments are under command of Col. Fessenden who is acting brigadier general.

One of the 27th Me. boys, shot himself on picket a few days since, while attempting to draw a charge from his musket, the rammer passing through his body,

Hoping before many days to be safe at home, and find you in good

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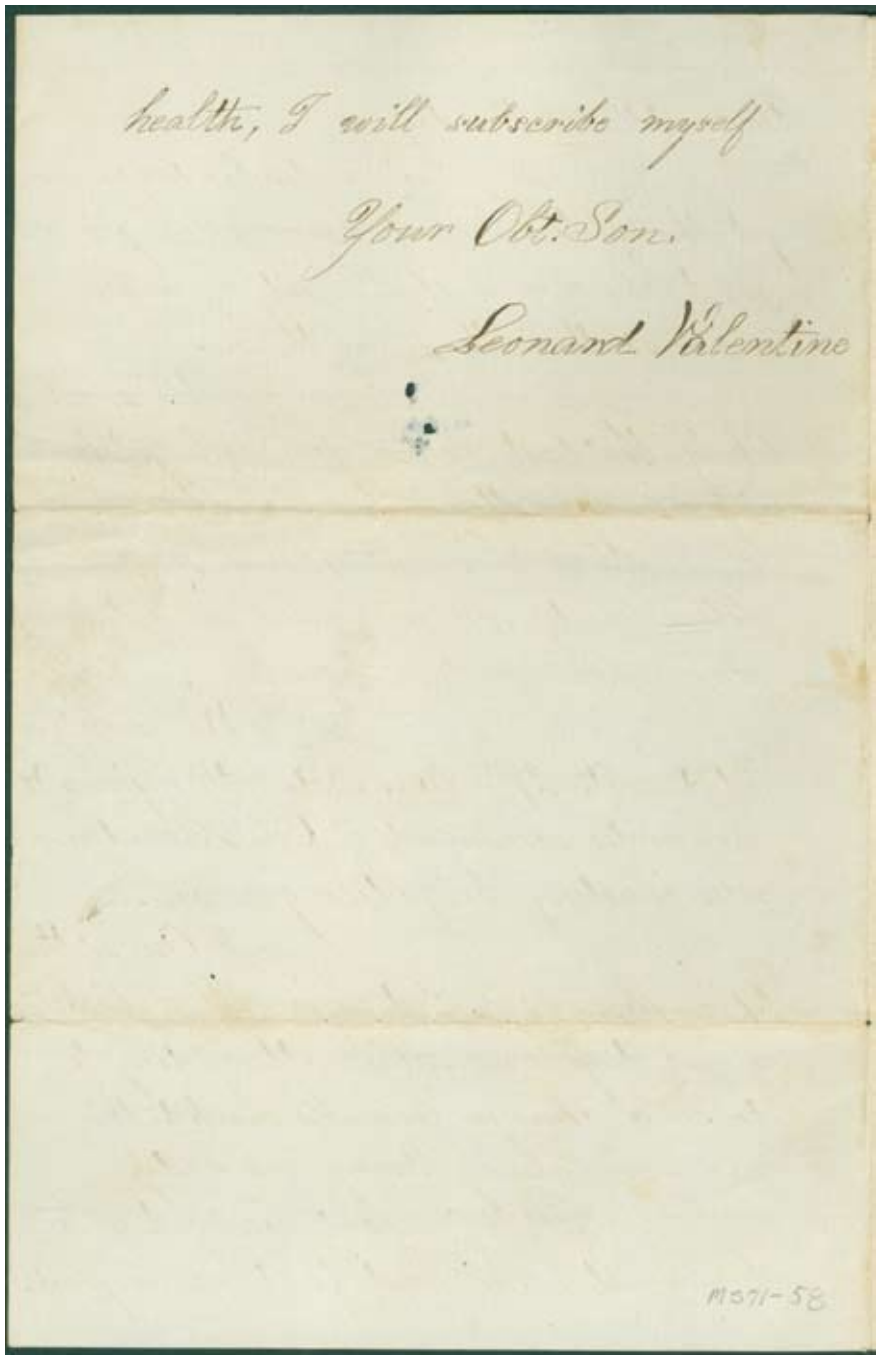

health, I will subscribe myself

Your Obt. Son,

Leonard Valentine