Warrington mar, midnighto Dear Wife & last night of Atod was about na nes the had received fudas is 2000 hear to, Baranaas & m. in Rec. apposited Fit. Pinkene, Shall lon? the looks of of things seen seste turn to zon will Shells to parry along with me as memer I might was the hardest The seen of the was get. Hing Corders to go to Sev Blue immediately. I they are going the swaend There are about ast night many boa ime here, with

Contributed to Maine Memory Network by Maine Historical Society MMN # 79278

Date: 1863

Description: John N. Foster of Jay wrote to his wife and son from Warrenton, Florida, reporting that the night before was "the hardest thing I've seen of the war yet."

Warrington Mar. 18th 1863 Midnight Dear Wife & son, I rec^d. your letter of Feb. 11th last night at 8 ock. & was ver glad to get it to if it was older than 4 others I had received friday night before. My health is good. Went yesterday up to Fts. Barancas & M^c. Kee. Opposite of Old Ft. Pickens. Shall long remember the looks of of thngs seen yesterday, & should I return to you will tell all particu -lars. got some Sea Shells to carry along with me as mementoes.

Last night was the hardest thing I've seen of the war yet.

We have Orders to go to New Orleas immediately. & they are going to evacuate Pensicola. there are about 100 families there & last night many boatloads of them came here with their effects for

safety. to see all people wandering around to find shelter under the protects of the Fits & Juna boats, in a place where there is but a few out buildings. There but a few years since there was as the forest of chimneys indicated a smart village, to us yankees tis the most to he looked whom as a ful, tis a good stor to what and a matition, convert seeshinto Penion men in the Reyt. Aubstantiate Pabriotism & give the Reenest appetite to fight, - For a few weeks now the men Deening the wickedness of distruction done by the keb! have, instead of going through the drill & manuel of arms in acould manner. changed, a disposition seems to prevail, to do every movement just to the dot Glad to say, to my knowledge there is not a seach in an Regt. 1. Cook The ground trembles by the sound cannot discom whereabouts the sannonading is . but the dreadful to "hear, commences khart 12, think there "I

safety. to see Old people wandering around to find shelter under the protectin of the Fts. & gunn boats, in a place where there is but a few out buildings. where but a few years since there was (as the forest of chimneys indicates) a smart village. to us vankees tis the most to be looked upon as awful. tis a good stor[paper torn] to whet our ambition. convert Secesh into Union men in the Reg^t. substantiate Patriotism & give the Keenest appetite to fight. — For a few weeks now the men seeing the wickedness & distruction done by the Reb^{ls}. have instead of going through the drill & manuel of arms in a careles manner changed. & disposition seems to prevail, to do every movement just to the dot

Glad to say, to my knowledge there is not a Secesh in Our Reg^t.

1 OCk the ground trembles. by the sound I cannot discern whereabouts the cannonading is. but tis dreadful to hear. Commenced ½ past 12. think there'l

be a skermigh at Lenseola before and troops get away. both Regts vere called out time last night. they are troubling our hakets bady two were shot resterday, the intention is to evacut I leave the stars & stripes blin &id they are taken down the gun boats are to shell the lifty immediately & burn it. - The report is the Rel, have evacual Vicksburg & gone to port budson that place isuppose is undergoing the test noo as Farrigert's fleet or gun boats were order into line Saturday at 10 oclock. two heavy death monsters went from here Thursday, the afficers were to meeting the evening he fore I they day it was the most dolemon meetin ever know here, the, had real, they Orders of knew their doon having been at the taking of the Fito on the miss, River, 2 aclock The booming has nearly exased. think twas at the litty as the wind has changed an her more dista

be a skirmish at Pensicola before our troops get away. both Regts were called out twice last night. they are troubling our pickets badly two were shot yesterday. the intention is to evacuate & leave the stars & stripes flying & if they are taken down the gun boats are to shell the Citty immediately & burn it. - The report is the Rebs. have evacuated Vicksburg & gone to port hudson. that place isuppose is undergoing the test now as Farrigut"s fleet or gun boats were orderd into line Saturday at 10 oclock. two heavy death monsters went from here Thursday. the officers were to meetin the evening before & they say it was the most solemn meeting ever known here. they had rec^d their orders & knew their doom having been at the taking of the Fts on the Miss. River.

2 oclock The booming has nearly ceased. think 'twas at the Citty. as the wind has changed can hear more [?]

We have but a short time more to sove I going up the kiver makes is dread it way much, no doult twill beaverg Short time to many of us but what our "tis not for us to know, all is doown duty of all will be well. and sorry to say Frank a failing ver fast, has law quiet most of the time to night , when he is awake is wandering some, think there is no doubt but we must lay him beside Rolt & Amizie. are doing all we can for him & I have never given him wh untill last night. appears much as Ellendid. Do me times felt most sure could save him I then it looked dark, but I think he mus die. trill be sad to his harents, but he has done his duty as a dold's & given his life for his county as much so as if he died on the battle field, I picker a heartiful beauguett unday morning & well send some leaves of the flowers, will foring seed if I san get any tohe your fathe, is bitter & gaining as the warm weather advances, Sine my regards to all sirest to S. Orleans as before your Husband & N. Foster

We have but a short time more to serve & going up the River makes us dread it very much. no doubt twill be a very short time to many of us but what our 'tis not for us to know. all is do our duty & all will be well.

I am sorry to say Frank Dixon is failing very fast. has laid quiet most of the time to night. when he is awake is wandering some. think there is no doubt but we must lay him beside Rob^t & [?]. are doing all we can for him & I have never given him up untill last night. Appears much as Ellen did. some times felt most sure could save him & then it looked dark. but I think he must die. twill be sad to his parents. but he has done his duty as a Soldier & given his life for his country as much as if he died on the battle field.

I picked a beautiful beauquette last Sunday morning & will send some leaves of the flowers, will bring seed if I can get any. Hope your father is better & gaining as the warm weather advances.

Give my regards to all.

Direct to

N. Orleans as before

Your Husband J. N. Foster