

Commander of a black company

In Camp near Fort Anderson,  
Paducah, Ky. Nov 6<sup>th</sup> / 64.

My Dear Seville:-

I dont know, nor do I care, whether I  
wrote you a letter or not - (I think not, however) but I do intend  
to write you one.

I left Philada. about two weeks ago for this place having  
been ordered to report here for duty. After a long and somewhat  
tedious journey of six days I arrived safe and sound at Paducah  
Ky. Half an hour later I was introduced to Col. W. H. Barry,  
8<sup>th</sup> U. S. C. Art. (Heavy) at his Hdqrs. in Fort Anderson, my present  
and future commander. He assigned me to Co "C" of his regt,  
encamped near the fort on the bank of the Ohio. The adjutant  
came over with me, introduced me to the company, and I was  
ready for duty. My Capt. is permanently detached from the  
company, so by rank the command devolves upon me. Now, you  
may judge of the magnitude of my duties, considering that I'm  
only a verdant youth of nineteen, and have one hundred and forty  
black, brave, and ignorant men to look after, and care for. My 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Lieut. is a good fellow, and of course helps very much, still there is plenty  
of business left for me to do. All the responsibility rests upon me - yours

W. H.