

CIVIL WAR LETTERS OF PETER OSTRYE

30 October 1862

Dear Father and Mother: It is with pleasure that I sit down to write you a few lines to let you know that I am well and in hopes that these few lines will find you the same. Father, I have received the money that you sent me. I received it the 20th of the month and I was glad to have it for it does me more good than \$8 in Dunkirk. Things are very dear here. I will tell you the prices here. Milk is .25 a quart, potatoes are \$2 a bushel. What you could buy in Dunkirk for .03 is a quarter here.

There is some talk of a going in to the battlefield soon, but I think we will get our pay first. The prices in Richmond I will tell you the boots are \$25.00 a pair and shoe. \$10---\$15 a bushel, Butter \$1.00 a pound, Tea is \$10.00 a pound and coffee is \$5.00 a pound, Onions .50 a pound. I wish you could tell me who you sold the house to and tell me what you got for it. I wish you would tell me whether you have built the house on your own lands or not. Give my best respect to my Brothers. Peter Ostra to Paul Ostra.

2 December 1862

Dear father and Mother: It is with pleasure that I sit down to write you a few lines to see how you are getting along. This is the 2nd letter that I wrote to you and received no answer. We have been a march three days and reached Fredicksburgh and the rebels are so thick as the mosquitoes in the summer time. We expect to have a fight in a few days and I wish you would answer my letter as soon as you get this letter for this may be the last one. We have about 160,000 troops here I think if the rebels whip us they will have to work. I have only found 1 countryman her since I came. I haven't got too much time to write for I have got to go on a sentry so I must bring my letter to a close in bidding you goodbye please answer this as soon as you get this. This from Mr. Peter Ostra to Mr. Paul Ostra. Direct your letters as before and I will get them.

Give my best respect to all the folks and my love to my brothers and tell them that I hope that I will get home soon

18 Dec 1862

Dear Brother: I received your kind and loving letter today and was glad to hear from

you to hear that you was well. I am well at present and in hopes these few lines will find you the same. We haven't got our pay yet and I would be glad if you would send me two or three dollars. I have been in a fight for 5 days and we didn't drive them any. We expect to go into a fight in a few days. You say that you have had a great deal of snow out there, but I haven't seen any snow but two times since I came here. Give my best respects to Father and Mother and sister and Brothers. I hope that I will go home once more----tan to take \$00. Give my respect to Mr. Henry King and to his brothers and to those who will inquire for me. I haven't got time to write any more for I must bring my letter to a close. I'm bidding you goodbye Father and Mother. Please answer this as soon as you can.(the battle he is speaking about is probably Fredericksburg-the 72nd was there at this time)

CAMP W. MARCH 2 1863

Dear Father and Mother: It is with great pleasure that I sit down to write you a few lines and to let you know that I am well at present and high hopes these few lines will find you the same. I received y our kind letter the 28th of February and was glad to hear from you to hear you got my letters and the money and that song I sent you. You need not send me any food for I will get by on the government----. There is not much fighting now days it is very still in camp. There is no news again. I suppose we will move soon, I don't know where we are a going there is four months pay a coming to me if I get it I will send you \$50.00 as soon as I get it. Give my best respects to the folks in Dunkirk if you go there---to all them I never wrote a letter to any one only just at home. I will always write to you as long as I live. Direct your letters as it is here. Peter Ostra Co H 3rd Reg Excelsior Brigade, Sickels Division, Washington DC

CAMP NELSON MARCH 9 1863

Dear Father and Mother: It is with great pleasure that I sit down to write you a few lines to let you know that I am well and in hopes that these few lines will find you the same. I have just come from a fight and it was a short one. It was a great many killed and wounded and our Colonel was killed and we lost our Lieutenant and 14 dead of our company. I got a slight wound in the head, but thank God that I am one safe and sound. haven't got much more to write so goodbye this from Peter Ostra to Paul Ostra. Please give my best to all who will inquire for me. Direct y our letters to Mr. Peter Ostra Co H 3rd Excelsior Brigade, Sickels Division, and Washington, DC (note from c smith: I suspect this battle he referred to be is the battle of Chancellorsville-referred to in his letter)

CAMP; NELSON TAYLOR MARCH 27 1863

Dear Father and Mother It is with great pleasure that I sit myself down to answer your kind letter which I received the 23rd of this month as glad to hear from you. I

am well at present and in hopes these few lines will find you the same.. We are in camp yet, but we expect to be in a battle in about 5 days. Things are very high, a barrel of flour is \$25 but in Richmond it is higher yet. It is from \$60 to \$70 a barrel and butter is \$6 a pound and cheese is \$5 a pound. we haven't got any pay soon but we expect to get it soon. give my best respect to all neighbors and you and brothers and sister and to those who might inquire. I haven't got much more to write so goodbye this from Mr. peter Ostre to Paul Ostre. Direct your letters to me Co H 3rd Excelsior Brigade, Sickels Division, Washington DC

CAMP NELSON TAYLOR MAY 24 1863

Dear Father and Mother: It is with great pleasure that I sit down to answer your kind letter which I received yesterday and it found me in good health. Hoping that these few lines will find you the same. I received the 5 stamps that was in the letter. We expect to get our pay soon and I will send \$20 then to you. I am going to send it the same by Adams Express. I have sent \$40 to Dunkirk by Adams Express go there and get it. We expect to go to fight soon. There isn't much news around here. Everything is still . Give my best respects to brother and to those o will inquire for me. I haven't time to write much more so goodbye this from Peter Ostre to Mr. Paul ostra.

CAMP NEAR UPPERTOWN JULY 21 1863

Parents; I now sit down to write a few lines to you to let you know that I am well. I hope that this will find you all well. I was in the fight at Gettysburg, Pa I got out all right. I got a letter from you the 18th of this month. I was glad to hear that you were all well and hope this will find you so. We staired from Falmouth the 11th of June and have been marching every since and have not go through yet. I hope we shall get to some place where we can a get a few weeks rest for this campaign has been the hardest one the army of the Potomac ever experienced. We are not in the Kanawa Valley near Ashbys Gap. We expect to have to move every minute. I suppose we will go to Warrington, Trinction(Junction) or some place near there, but it is hard telling where we are a going. I got a letter from Kate since I was on the march. She wrote that she was well and all the rest of them. I was glad to hear from them as I am from the all-dear friends. I have no time to write to her, but mean to write the first opportunity I have to her. I have nothing more to write at present, give my love to all the brothers and sister and my dear Mother. Write soon. Your affectionate son, Peter Ostra to Paul Ostra.

CAMP NEAR BEVERLY FORD VA 15 Aug 1863

Dear Parent Write you a few lines to let you know that I am well as usual wanted to send a portrait of Col W. O. Stevens, our late command who was killed at the battle of Chancellorsville. He was a brave man. You will find his picture in this letter.

Orders have come to be ready with three days rations to move. It is hard to tell where we shall move. There is nothing more of importance to write. Give my love to all. Your affectionate son, Peter Ostre to his Father and Mother.

CAMP NEAR BEVERLY FORD VA Aug 31 1863

I received your kind letter on Friday last. I was glad to hear you were well. I am as well as usual as we are remaining in camp yet the same one that we stayed in first. We got some conscripts in our division, but none in our Brigade yet. we expect some before long. The draft has come in from Dunkirk. There was 165 drafted. They left for Elmira last week some of our old neighbors were drafted. We expect them here before too on to fill up the regiment. Five men in the fifth corps were shot for desertion on Saturday last. A warning to all deserters. I wish you would send me some stamps for I have not any more nor can I get any They are a scarce article at present. I have nothing more to tell you at present. Write soon. Your affectionate son. Peter Ostre to his parents.

CAMP NEAR CLUPEPPER VA SEPT 20 1863

It is with much pleasure that I sit down to answer y our kind and welcome letter which I received the 19th of this month and it found me in good health. Hoping these few lines will find you the same. There is no news in camp now. Everything is still. we have been on a march for 2 days and one night. I have no more news to write. Please give my best respect to my sister and brothers and the baby and tell them that I hope the baby will get well soon. give my best love to my brother and sister at home and hope that it won't be long before I can go home and see y au all and then I can tell you more about the war. Give my best wishes to the folks around there. so goodbye this from Peter ostre. PS we are only a little ways from the rebels. We will have a fight soon. Please tell me if you got the likeness I sent of our colonel that was killed at Chancellorsville, Colonel Stephens.

CAMP NEAR BRANDY STATION VA DEC 11 1864

Dear Father and Mother> It is with much pleasure that I sit down to answer your kind and welcome letter which I received the 7th of this month. And it found me in good health hoping this may find you the same. There is not much news here now. We have had a battle. There was I killed and 11 wounded in the company. I am, thank God, I am safe and sound and now we are in winter quarters. I think we will stay here all winter if the rebels don't drive us away. I have no more to write at present. Please answer this as soon as you get this. Give my best to all the folks and to those who would inquire for me. No new. This from Peter Ostra to Paul Ostra

CAMP AT BRANDY STATION VA 3 March 1864

Dear Father and Mother: I received your kind and welcome letter stating that you were all well which I was glad to hear. There is nothing new here at present. I regret to say that Charles Gwin(?) was buried today. He died Monday. I have answered every letter that I have got and I did not get an answer from the last letter that I wrote you. You forgot to tell me who the bride is. I hope John good luck and that he can live long and enjoy good health. As there is lots of rebels there I can't come to the wedding for it all that I can do it to keep them from coming north and wrecking the happy firesides you must have at happy times at the wedding. For enjoy yourself as if I was with you for probably when I will be there is no telling. I am well and in good health. Give my love to all and likewise to yourselves No more at a present. This is from Peter Ostra to his father Paul Ostra.

CAMP AT BRANDY STATION VA MARCH 26 1864

Dear Mother and Father: I received your kind and welcome letter and was glad to hear that you are all well and doing well. There is nothing new here at present. It has been very cold here the last two weeks we have had snow and rain. I have received two letters since Dec and they both came this month. When I send my money I will send it to Columbia, Penn for you that would get it better and it would not cost so much. I am well and in good health and hope that I will be so until I return home. I am going to send this letter to French Crick(creek) for I have got my envelopes directed there. Give all my respects to all my inquiring friends and to the folks. No more at present from your son. Peter Ostra

WASHINGTON DC 12 MAY 1864

Dear Sir:: I found your son Peter Ostra in Douglas Hospital today. He was wounded in the ankle, not dangerously. ----on Tuesday, May 10. He is in good spirits and having good care and will be about in a week or two, I think. He has been a brave man so his commander says and deserves all the care he needs at the present and a warm place in the hearts of all patriots for his bravery and sacrifice. Very respectfully. d. G. Morgan.. If you at anytime wish to make inquiries of me, I shall be glad to tell you or help you in anything. Addressed to Paul Ostra.

WASHINGTON DC 31 MAY 1864

Dear Mr. Ostra: Your son is very ill. He has written to you twice so I told him I would write to you. He wants to see some of you soon. He has had his leg amputated. I mailed a letter to you last right but sent to the wrong place. He was too low to tell me the right address. He is at Stanton Hospital Ward I. Oh! he wants to see some of his family so bad, in haste Anna Shuman.

STANTON HOSPITAL WARD I WASHINGTON DC 31 May 1864

My dear Father: I sent a letter too you before , but did not get any answer. I was wounded in the 10th day of this month and after 3 days I was brought up here. My leg was so badly wounded that I had to have it amputated. Please, come to me immediately for I am very sick and if anything should happen to me or if I should die then you could take me home. Come just as quick as you can for there is not a moment to lose. Your affectionate son. Peter Ostre.(written on stationery with the name E. R. Owen imprinted)

WASHINGTON DC JUNE 2 1864

Mr. Paul Ostre, French Creek Mill: sir I suppose you have received my letter of the 29th of May. My provisions were but too correct. Your son Peter died this morning at 2 o'clock. I do sincerely and earnestly pray God to comfort y you in this sad circumstance. Peter was very well prepared and left this world calmly and quietly, without any fear. His only regret was to leave his father, mother, sister Most respectfully yours, G. Rocoffort. S. J. (Stanton Hospital Washington. DC.(would suspect this was chaplain)

U. S. SANITARY COMMISSION, STANTON HOSPITAL, WASHINGTON DC 1 June 1864

Paul Ostre Esq: Dear Sir: It has become my painful duty to announce to you the death of your son Peter Ostre, Private CO H. 72nd NY Vols in consequence of wounds received in the late battles. He was admitted on the 13th of May and died today. He died quiet easy though suffering much during his stay here. He will be buried at the Soldiers Home burying ground. His effects, if any, will be at your disposal. Any information you desire will be given by addressing, Yours. EE BreakingCC

OFFICE fifteenth St. Washington OF JOHN STEVENS AND CO MILITARY AGENTS
422 n DC June 6 1864

Dear Sir: Your son Peter, died in this city on the 1st of this month. Kindly attended in his last illness. As his Father and heir you are entitled to a certain sum of money since now due. It is our business to attend to such cases and for your interest that it be done immediately. If such be your wish please send us a letter to that effect in the enclosed postpaid envelope when we will promptly send you the necessary papers. Please write without delay and oblige. John Stevens