

## *Inventory of Letters re: Ralph Tolles*

### *The letters from Ralph Tolles*

1. [10/12/61] Letter without envelope. Salutation is 'Dear Friends.'—Dated 'Camp Scott Oct 12<sup>th</sup>/61. —Stationary is folded foursheet [app 8/12 x 11] when fully opened.— Embossed with an Ira Harris Guards logo. Writing is much broader than his later, cramped handwriting. —Signed 'Ralph.'

17a. Envelope. —Addressed to Katie Tolles. Plain envelope. Stamp intact. Back of envelope edged in red and blue and embossed with small eagle and shield surrounded by the words 'Unity and Constitution'. —Containing a letter with salutation reading 'Dear sister.'—Letter is a torn half of a folded foursheet.

Note: Letter cannot be fully returned to envelope.

2. [11/9/61] Letter without envelope.—Salutation is 'Dear Sister.—Dated 'Camp Scott Nov. 9<sup>th</sup> Head Quarters Ira Harris Guards Nov. 9<sup>th</sup>, 1861.—Three fourths of page three and two thirds of page four have been [crossed out?] in pencil, but writing underneath is easily read.

3. [11/10/61] Envelope with letter. Addressed to 'Ambrose L. Norton esq.' Letter is hand canceled 'Nov 12'. —Salutation reads 'Freind Ambrose'.—Dated 11/10.—Envelope also contains two sheets, written on both sides, of a very faded letter without an apparent salutation.

4. [12/13/61] Envelope with a picture of Maj. Gen. McClellan. Stamp removed as well as stamp's portion of an aqua-blue postmark circle. Front and back of envelope are separated. Addressed to Katie Tolles. —Contains letter to Katie Tolles. Header reads 'Head -quarters II II-II G. Regt. Co. F Dec. 13<sup>th</sup>, Camp Harris, 1861 5<sup>th</sup> Regmt. N.Y. Cavalry.'

5.[2/19/62] Letter without envelope—Salutation to 'Dear Sister'—Dated 'Camp Harris, Feb. 19<sup>th</sup>, 1862.'

6. [3/4/62] Envelope with stamp torn off—Addressed to Katie Tolles—

Contains a letter to Katie Tolles dated Camp Harris Mar. 4<sup>th</sup>, 1862. Beneath that is 'Annapolis' with the date Feb. 27<sup>th</sup> crossed out. Stationary has a sketch of cavalry under the words 'The Nation's Defense'. Beneath the sketch is the printed word 'Head-Quarters'. The back flaps are edged in red and blue and embossed with a shield topped with an eagle. Around it are the words 'Union Constitution'.

7.[3/5?/62] Envelope with torn stamp.—Printed with the rose cavalry sketch and the words ‘The nation’s defense.’—Addressed to ‘Ambrose Lathrop esq.—Salutation reads ‘My Friend Ambrose’. —Dated ‘Camp Harris March (5<sup>th</sup>?) 1862. Head-quarters 5<sup>th</sup> N.Y.V.C. Regt. Co. [hard to read numerals / possibly IIF] Near Annapolis Maryland.’ Stationary printed in rose. ‘The Result of Uncle Sam’s Government’ arched over an engraving of man and woman plowing behind a team. Underneath printed “Peace, Plenty Prosperity’.

8.3/9/62] Envelope—Addressed to Katie Tolles. Half stamp remains. Envelope printed in rose with ‘The Nation’s Defense’ over drawing of cavalry charge.—Contains letter with salutation “Dear Sister’.—Dated ‘Camp Blank Mar 9<sup>th</sup> 1862 Harper’s Ferry Virginia.—Letter is very fragile.

9. [?] Envelope with stamp corner torn off—Addressed to Katie Tolles—Salutation is ‘Dear Sister’—Last page has a gap of approximately six lines which have apparently been cut out with a sharp item such as scissors or a razor.

10. [3/31/62] Envelope with letter to James S. Tolles. Postmarked ‘Mar 31’.

11. [4/29/62] Envelope with letter.—Addressed to ‘Ambrose T. Norton’.—Salutation reads “Dear Brother and Sister’.—Dated April 29<sup>th</sup>, 1862. New Market Va.’

Also see item 17a.

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**The letters re; the death of Ralph Tolles:**

12. [5/8/62] Envelope with letter. Addressed to James S. Tolles.—Salutation reads ‘My Dear Uncle’. Closing signature is ‘Your nephew Edmund.—Letter is dated ‘May 8<sup>th</sup>, 1862’.—Letter informs JST of the death of his son Ralph.

13. **Envelope fragment** [front] postmarked May9th.—Envelope is addressed to James S. Tolles.

14. [5/9/62] Letter without envelope.—Addressed to ‘Mr. James S. Tolles’. New line reads ‘Dear [Sir or Jim]’.—Dated ‘Camp near New Market Va May 9<sup>th</sup> 1862’.— Stationary is a folded fourpage printed with a picture of a rough United States map, wrapped in a flag, and topped by an eagle.—Letter is signed ‘Yours [Very?] Respty 1<sup>st</sup> Lieut Levi Curtis Commanding Co. F. 5<sup>th</sup> N.Y. Cavalry’.

15.[5/12/62] Envelope printed with rose ‘The Nation’s Defense’ and the cavalry charge. There is no address.—Contains a telegram dated ‘May 12” 1862’ and begins ‘The following message left Harpers Ferry for J.S. Putnam Attica [probably John. S Putnam; see Foresthill cemetery records.]—Telegram is signed Edward Tolles and refers to remains of Ralph Tolles.

16. [5/13/62] Faded letter fragment [p. 1 of ?]—Salutation is to ‘Kate’.—Dated ‘Buff May 13 11o’clock PM.—Writer is distressed.

17. [5/14/62] Envelope with notation ‘This envelope was with Uncle Ralph’s things sent from Va. May 1862.’—Contains telegram [or copy] dated May 14, 1862 announcing the arrival of Ralph Tolle’s remains.—Envelope identifies the unit as ‘5<sup>th</sup> New York Cavalry Ira Harris Guard Co. F’.

18. One folded square of paper, approximately 3x5, labeled ‘Inventory Ralph’. —The square opens into a lined sheet of tablet paper bearing a list of Ralph’s personal effects.

19. [5/29/62] Letter without an envelope.—Salutation is to First Lieut. Curtis.—Dated Attica, May 29<sup>th</sup>, 1862.—Signed ‘Truly Your Most Obedient James S. Tolles’.—Stationary is a folded foursquare with a vague embossed crest.

### **Envelope fragments**

20. Envelope to Katie Tolles. Postmark may be November; is handwritten. Rest of date is a double digit [1 +?].

21. Envelope back.

22. Envelope back.

23. Empty blue envelope addressed to ‘James. [S.?] Tolles in large strong writing. — Front of envelope is printed with ‘The Loyal States’, a large ‘Union’ ribboned with ‘New Jersey’, and the New Jersey State seal.

24. Envelope. —Addressed to Katie Tolles.—Envelope printed with likeness and name of ‘Maj. Gen. McCLELLAN.—Stamp intact.