

W A R of the R E B E L L I O N

1861 - 1865

LETTERS written while in service

by

WATERS WHIPPLE BRAMAN

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Enlisted at Troy, N. Y., December 7th, 1861, for  
a period of Three Years - Age 21 yrs.

Mustered in January 30th, 1862, as First Lieutenant  
with rank from January 15th, 1862,  
Co. C, 93rd N. Y. Vols.

Transferred to Co. H, April 3rd, 1864 for promotion to  
Captaincy, with rank from March 23rd, 1864,  
vice Captain Hiram S. Wilson, deceased.

Mustered out January 14th, 1865 (Expiration of term  
of enlistment), as Captain, with rank of  
Brevet Major N. Y. Vols.  
3rd Div. 2nd Army Corps, Army of the Potomac.

Service: 3 yrs., 1 mo., and 1 wk.

Camp of 93rd N. Y. Vols.  
Near Brandy Station, V.a.  
February 10th, 1864

Dear Cousin Libbie,

We arrived in camp about noon to-day, came to Alexandria yesterday, but there were so many soldiers returning, that we could not get "transportation", and so had to stay there all night.

We are in our old quarters and resume our old duty to-morrow. I wrote Kill from Washington as soon as I arrived there enclosing the pass for him, in the letter I wrote for him to take the cars at "Myrtle Avenue". I ment Maryland Avenue instead. If he has not started tell him. If he has, he knows enough to come all straight, and will see that it was a mistake on my part. We came through without accident of any kind, and excepting a sleight cold I feel first rate myself. Have not as yet heard anything about being detailed to return on recruiting service, and do not rely on coming just now, as there was three or four of our officers staid on sick leave and otherwise, and I fear it would not be granted if the application were made, perhaps when we get settled it will be made.

I trust Uncles Health is improved ere this, and that Kill will come, now is his chance if he ever intends to do so. Did Em tell you about getting the rest of the Photographs ordered by me? I did not have time to get them although they must have been finished some days before I left, when you get them please send them to me, they are paid for. I think there should be eight or nine. Dont let Uncle or Kill forget to give Deacon Rundell a check (for the clothes on my back) for \$33.75.

I got into Washington about a half hour after the Regt did, so everything was all right. Of course I called on the gentle Annie in N. Y. made a visit of about two half minutes, which deed of charity came near getting me left over in that city. So I think I saw every one on my trip home that I cared to see and lots that I did not care so much about. And therefore am satisfied, and shall be contented to remain - how long I do not know - I do wish though I had got up to Union Villiage, but it can not be helped now. Remember me to all friends, and should you chance to see my picture in a Locket, do not tell Elijah B- for everyone will know it certain that lives in Troy or Lansingburgh.

I shall write to Mary Wheeler this evening, and therefore shall close this letter with love to yourself and all the family from

Your aff. cousin

Waters

To Miss Libbie Whipple  
Troy, N. Y.

P. S.

I enquired about Ephs Box, in Washington D. C. yesterday, and found that it was delivered by Harndens Ex at Falmouth V.a. on the 28th day of February 1863 - and was receipted for by the Provost marshall of the 1st Corps, and therefore I conclude that it was received by some one at the regiment - I have written about it to Mary

Yours

Waters

Camp of 93rd Regt. N. Y. Vols.  
Near Brandy St. V.a.  
February 20th, 1864

Dear Cousin Libbie,

Yours of the present week, (dates Feb 1st I suppose by mistake) I found this evening - awaiting my return to camp. I have been away all day on horseback all over the army, seeing my friends and the army generally, and although I do feel pretty tired I thought inasmuch as you had written twice, it suited a prompt answer. I do not see when you got the idea of my having a bad cold. I do not remember to have written anything to that effect if I did, I must have told a fib for I do not remember now of having had a cold or anything of the kind since my return. I received and answered Kill's letter saying he could not come, and although I regret that such was the case, do not see how he could have done any differently, as long as Uncle's health was so poor. I was fearful that Sunday that he was getting smart to fast, to walk across the River.

Your other letter containing the Photographs arrived safely. Am much obliged for them. How did it come that Abbie forgot to put the thread etc. into my valise? I went to do a little tailor work for myself, and could not find any thread, so I made up my mind it was forgotten, never mind I can get some here.

I must plead "not guilty" to your charge of premeditation in regard to stopping on the way to Albany for I tell you that it was not so, and that I am entirely innocent. Had I known as much the night before, I might have had business down that way, or have been very late coming from Albany, but I did not, and only stopped on the impulse of the moment and am glad I had the "impulse" to do so.

Sergt Fred Myer stayed behind on recruiting service, and if he calls at the house and you have anything to send to me he will bring it I know.

I have my hands full of business now, have to make all the papers for any of our old men who take a notion to re-enlist at this late day. About sixty of them that we left behind are going now. And besides that I am detailed as instructor to hear the 2d Lieuts of the Regiment recite Tactics, and that with helping to drill the new recruits will keep me busy enough. But Guard duty I am free from so that is some gain.

Remember me to all the young folks especially the male part. I have forgotten all the other sex since my return to camp, they bothered my head continually when I was away and now I mean to have some rest.

Give my love to Uncle, Aunt, Abbie, Em, Kill, and all the Washington Co. friends when you write, and with the best wishes for the speedy return to health of Uncle Waters, and the continuance therein for you all, I remain as ever

Your Aff. Cousin,  
Waters

P. S. Lieuts. N--- & B---- wish to be kindly remembered to you all.

Waters.

Camp of 93rd N. Y. Vols.  
Near Brandy St. V.a.  
February 23rd 1864

My Dear Uncle,

Although I have not written directly to you since my return, yet you must not think I have forgotten or ever will forget my friends.

We are having very fine weather indeed for the past few days. And we have had a great many visitors to the Army. We have had two members of Congress stopping with us for a day or two, Kellogg of N. Y. & Higbee of California. We did our best to make them comfortable and they expressed themselves very much pleased with their treatment and reception here. Mr. Kellogg was a friend of Capt. Bs who stopped to see him when we came through Washington this last time, and he invited them down, and I am glad they came. Mr. K----- is going to send me all the official documents and reports that would be interesting. I believe they all have a certain number for that purpose.

I have not seen my brother William yet, do not know whether he is back yet or not. I wrote to Mary Wheeler the same day I got into camp but have not heard a word from them yet.

We are receiving more or less deserters from the Rebels every day, and are continually sending details to Washington with them. They all seem to agree that secession is a doomed institution, and will have to give up soon.

There are a great many ladies in camp now mostly officers Wives & Daughters. The 93rd has but one the Asst. Surgeons Wife & little daughter, the boys have built her quite a house so she is very comfortable.

I trust ere this you are entirely recovered from your late illness. I fear you overdid your strength in going over the river to see me off, and that you are apt to do it in your over anxiety to attend to business, but I hope to hear in the next from home that you are entirely recovered.

Give my love to Aunt, Abbie, Lib, Em & Kill, and to any of the Washington County friends when you write or see them & believe me to be

ever your aff. Nephew

Waters

P. S. Lieuts Newcomb & Bramhall often enquire after your health, and none oftener than that old man from West Troy who is now in our Company. -- Waters

Enclosed I send Libbie two Photographs one of Lt. Kincaid, of whom she has a poor one of, and Corporal Wallace of our regiment. Waters

Camp of 93rd Regt. N.Y. Vols.  
Near Brandy Station Va.  
February 23d 1864

Friend Maggie,

Thanks to Uncle Samuel's excellant postal arrangements, last evening found me the recipient of, first, your favor containing your Phiz, and last but not least the "Waverley", for both of which kind attentions, please accept my sincere thanks. The former which I shall ever keep, will serve to remind me that during my recent - pleasant visit at home, some of its happiest moments were passed in West Troy. How soon the streets of that (but for the mud and some half-dozen other reasons) most delightfull village will be trodden by me again, the future only can tell. Hope whispers soon, but the trouble with Mr. H. is he always whispers what we ourselves wish. The latter I shall read, and although I do not take to myself the doubtfull credit of giving way to the various "temptations" incident to camp life, yet I hope to profit by its perusal.

Writing from camp, it is almost needless to mention our safe arrival etc. etc. I rejoined the regiment at Washington the evening following the day I left home. Have been somewhat lonely since my return to camp, but aside from that, am as contented and happy as any innocent young man (like myself) can be, surrounded by the aforesaid "temptations" & vices which the "Standard Magazine" with pious hands, holds up in holy horror.

I wrote to Bob a few days since. I fear that if he started on his return, at the time intended that he met with rough weather off the coast. Have you heard from him? I ask because there is no certainty of my doing so soon, directly from him, perhaps he will write and perhaps not. I always keep him right in my heart however, therefore I charitably hope he will sooner or later.

And since you have so kindly written once, you certainly cannot so cruelly forget the last clause of the often quoted "temptations" which being addressed "to those at home" says "write often".

Remember me kindly to your Father & Mother also Pa & Ma Jones & Jones Jr. with the auburn hair.

& believe me  
ever your friend,

Waters

Miss Maggie Getty  
West Troy, N. Y.

P. S. If I do not say what I think of the "Carte de Visite", you must credit it to my dislike of flattery in any form. W.

Camp of 93rd N. Y. Vols.  
Near Brandy Station, V.a.  
February 29th, 1864

My Dear Uncle,

Your Welcome letter of the 23rd I received some days since, but not so soon as one from Kill of the same date. I am rejoiced to learn of your improved state of health and hope it may be permanent. I wrote to you a few days ago I think it must have been about the same day that you wrote to me. I am expecting Kill every day after this, untill he comes, and am hoping for pleasant weather for him but am a little fear-full. We have had elegant weather for the past fortnight, scarcely a drop of rain, but today is cloudy and threatening. This being the last day of the month we were mustered for pay for the last two months, which pay we expect to get about the middle of this month.

I had a letter from Mary Wheeler yesterday. They were all well but I presume you have later news from there than myself. I had a letter from Sergeant Myers who is on recruiting service, he has got some men for the Company. We are expecting about twenty down from Albany this week which will fill our Co. up so that our Orderly can be mustered as 2d Lieut.

You have doubtless learned of the Cavalry Expedition from here. About all we know of it is that All of the Cavalry from this army are gone on it and the 6th Corps have gone in the other direction to attract attention and the rest of the Army are under orders. I do not think it will cause a change of camp for us. But I hope the move will be successfull. The Cavalry went down below Fredericksburg to our left and it is said are to join a force from Genl Butlers command, and make a "Grand Raid".

I am glad to hear of the continued good prospects for Ephriam and hope they will all be realized.

Tell Em that I will write to her in a day or so, and come to think I believe I owe Abbie one for the note enclosed with another letter but I will not forget her or any of my friends.

With love to Aunt Hannah and all, and sincere wishes for your own and Aunt Hannahs good health for years to come, I remain,

As ever your  
Aff. Nephew

Waters W. Braman

P. S. Am in Splendid health and condition. I am getting fat, just as I did after my trip home last year.

Waters

To Waters W. Whipple, Esq.  
Troy, N. Y.

Later

I am going to Washington in the morning with prisonors and hope to meet Kill there.

W.

(Excuse size of note paper)

W.

Camp Near Brandy Station V.a.  
March 19th, 1864

Friend Maggie,

Again I have the pleasure of acknowledging your last favor, also on the same day the Waverley was welcomed, I can scarce say which the most. Which of us should feel the most flattered by our correspondence is a matter of some doubt? I think myself, owing to your kind offer to send me th Waverley (which offer I am more than happy to accept) that I have the most cause for congratulations.

I should have liked right well to visit the "Bazaar" notwithstanding the danger I should have been in "under fire" of the eyes of those fair young misses you speak of. Since writing you I have been to Washington. While there visited the "Grand Sanitary Fair" at the Patent Office. But fear the specimens of the "fairer sex" on exhibition there would suffer materially by comparison with the still more fair daughters of Troy and the vacinity.

You are doubtless aware that Kill has been visiting me for the past two weeks, he started for the bosom of his family this morning, and but for my having quite a number of letters to write I should be very lonely. As it is I miss him, for he has been the "light of the house", and I am in command of a company away from the regiment and having no other officer expect to be lonesome.

I have not heard a word from Bob as yet but hope to soon. In regard to that message of Sarah's, I hardly know how to take it, but inasmuch as it would be impossible for me to supply her with, or give her reliable information as to the exact "shade" of my head gear at so early a stage of my civil life, she must excuse my lack of knowledge on the subject. Are you serious about the young man being named after a Military individual of our acquaintance? I really could not tell, when at West Troy whether it was all a joke or not. If true I beg you to express to its Mother, my thanks for the unexpected but none the less appreciated honor, conferred upon me. If it is a joke you are trying to perpetrate at the expense of Sarah and myself - but I do not think that of you so will say nothing more about it.

You need not fear but that my "patience" will sustain me in answering everyone of your letters. I only hope you may be blessed with an equal share of that virtue.

Remember me kindly to your Pa & Ma, Mr & Mrs. Jones and Jones Jr., also to Mill and Frankie. I believe I forgot them entirely in my last, but it was unintentional on my part. With renewed assurances of my regards, I am,

Your Friend

Waters

Miss Maggie Getty  
West Troy, N. Y.

Camp of 93rd N. Y. Vols.  
Hd Qrs Army of Potomac  
March 21 '64

My Dear Uncle,

Your last containing also one from Libbie I received a day or two before Kill left me. He started day before yesterday and I suppose by this time he is at Home. I hope he has arrived safely. I heard from him yesterday at Washington, and expect to hear again as soon as he gets to Troy, but the only real danger even of an accident is between here and Washington so I take it for granted he has arrived all safe. I hope Kill enjoyed his visit, and have no reason to believe otherwise, for I am sure all was done by myself or friends to take care of him and to show him camp life and nothing more, nothing extra to eat but just as we live the year round, and a pretty good insight into our duties in the field. Tell him that the talk now is that we are not going to have the grand review, although General Grant is expected soon, as it is said he says he does not want the reviews but to ride around among the camps and see the soldiers there (all humbug in my opinion). If true it is well he did not wait expecting to see them.

I suppose I might have went down to Washington with him. I would certainly have liked right well to do so but did not think it just right to ask it when I had been so recently, and there are so many wanting to go.

There is talk that the Rebs show a disposition to move if so we will be on the move soon. Our sick are being sent away. You speak of coming down yourself, as I should be glad to have you yet I think it would be most to much for you, but will send you a pass any day you say so, if possible.

Tell Kill I would be lonesome but that I have a housefull (of smoke) all the time.

We expect every day to return to our old duty, just as soon as the 20th N. Y. M. get back from furlough of thirty-five days.

I have not heard but one from Mary Wheeler since I returned from home, have written twice myself.

With love to all the family and kind remembrances to all friends I am as ever

Your Aff. Nephew

Waters

Waters W. Whipple Esq.  
Troy, N. Y.



Camp of 93rd N. Y. Vols.  
Near Brandy Sta. V.a.  
March 1864

Dear Cousins Libbie & Abbie,

Owing to circumstances beyond my control I have been unable to find time to write to anyone, and not even to do justice to Kill, on the other hand I have had him at work making out "pay Rolls" and a very apt scholar I found him. We went to ride today but the fates were against us in the shape of a rainstorm, and we had to turn back, but as I am over the hurry I have been in for some few days back I hope to devote more time to his entertainment. He seems to be enjoying himself very much now.

Genl Grant and President Lincoln are here today, we have not seen them yet but hope to do so. It is unknown what the meaning of this visit is but of course all have an opinion on the subject.

I do not know of anything that can be interesting in the way of news. The ladies are all ordered out of the army and I guess all citizens will be soon, and that will mean business.

Enclosed I send two Photographs of Officers of the Regt. I believe you have one of Lt. Northup but I think this is a better one. They are both going to give Kill one each.

Kill says he is lonely only he has a sore                      under his coat from riding horseback.

I am very much obliged for the nice cake you sent & tongue. Also to Em, tell her that I am ashamed I have not written to her ere this, but will do so soon. With love to all Aunt, Uncle, & Em, I am,

Your Aff. cousin

Waters

P.S. I attended the Sanitary fair in Washington at the "Patent Office" it was splendid. I wish Kill had come a day sooner - W

Camp of 93rd N. Y. Vols.  
Near Brandy Station, V.a.  
March 25th 1864

Dear Uncle

Your last of the 21st I received last night also Kills of the 22d. The latter informed me that yours was answered better than I could do it. Also Abbies letter came in the same mail so I was pretty well posted as to home affairs for one day. I am glad to hear that your health is so much improved and trust it will be permanant, also that Aunt Hannah's health is so good.

Genl Grant came down to the Army yesterday. We had everything prepared to give him a reception, by turning out all the troops around Head Quarters but he cheated us by going right on to Culpepper and did not come here untill after dark. He will probably have a good chance to see what difficulties the Army of the Potomac have in the way of mud, for we had a snow storm (of about ten inches) day before yesterday, and today Rain, and no end of mud. I am glad Kill came just as he did for although we had some hard days while he was here yet we have had nothing to equal what fine ones we did have then.

We received yesterday a very sad piece of news and very sudden in the shape of a telegraph stating that Capt. Hiram S. Wilson of "H" Co died the night before at New York City where he has been on a detail for drafted men, he died of erysipelas. He was president of a Genl Court Martial in N. Y. City. He is a brother-in-law of James Fonda Esq. The officers had a meeting last evening and passed resolutions expressing our sympathy with the family, and share in the loss. He was a very warm-hearted man and although he had his peculiarities (who has not) yet he was a good officer and a perfect gentleman. But so it goes. One goes, and another takes his place and the one gone is soon forgotten. I shall undoubtedly be appointed to the Captaincy of his late company, one of the largest and best in the regiment. It is the company which is now encamped with the one I now command, and was associated with it in guarding the prisonors last summer & fall, and in all probability will do the same for the coming year.

I do not know, but yet I do not think the advent of Genl Grant will at all derange the present position of the 93rd but it is impossible to form any idea of the sudden changes in the Army. Should anything of the kind occur, you will hear immediately, but I do not anticipate any-thing of the kind. I suppose Kill has told you all the news, probably ten times more than I should think to write, and I can only add that I am well and hearty and hope you and all the family will be the same untill long after the present year and war.

Hoping to hear from you as often as possible, but if I do not I know it is something besides the will that interferes. I am with love to all, as ever

Your Aff. Nephew

Waters

Enclosed I send Libbie a picture of Major McConihe W.

Camp of 93rd N. Y. Vols.  
Near Brandy Station, V.a.  
March 28th 1864

Dear Cousin Libbie

I was intending to write to Em tonight but owing to your addition to Uncle Waters' of the 25th which I received today she must wait for you. I can only give as the reason for my having so neglected you and my other lady correspondents has been first, owing to Kill's visit, you heard through him at least every other day of our whereabouts, health, and in fact more news than I generally write, and since his return I have had occasion to write to him and Uncle W- so often that I have hardly had a chance to write to any of the rest of you. Now I have not written to Em since my return and I feel ashamed of it. You must not think that I have or will forget any of you for I mean to give you all a chance in your turn.

Sergt Myers was here a few days since he came down with recruits. He promised on his return to call and ask you to get for me a dozen of my photographs printed at Cobdens (I hope Elijah B- will not be too communicative) and to give him one now or when you get the dozen. Please do so and what of the dozen you do not wish to appropriate otherwise send to me by mail. I wrote to Kill that if he got the commission for me, or heard that it was all right, to send my trunk. Now do not fill it up with bedclothes or that pillow for I have plenty of both those luxuries, but you may send my dressing-gown and slippers and that citizen's vest and also the military vest and pair of pants that I left in the clothes press when home. I have dry-goods enough to about half fill the trunk and with company books and papers would quite do so. If you and Abbie would be kind enough to do so I would like about two shirts made as all that I can buy are far too small after the first or second time they pass through the hands of our he-male washerwomen. Get some kind of fancy goods not too heavy for summer and make the sleeves long and the cuffs large around the wrist, and get me a set of Ivory sleeve buttons with the letter B on them and work holes in the wrist-bands for them. Make them large enough around the neck for a 15 $\frac{1}{2}$  inch paper collar to button on. I do not think of anything else that I need as it is more on account of the books & papers of the company that I intend the trunk for.

I have not written to Carrie yet but intend to soon. I wrote to Mary Wheeler as soon as I got Abbie's last for fear that it was me that was behind, for I know I have sadly neglected my lady correspondents lately. Tell Kill that the proof-prints of those pictures have come and ask him how many I shall send him. I guess a couple will be as many as he wants, and I will also send you one. I thought I should have had a good picture but mine is the poorest in the groupe.

Have you sent that sermon of Chas S. R's down to Mr. Knowlson. I wish you would apologize to Mrs. Morrison & Mrs. Dermott for me that I did not call at their houses as invited also to the younger member of both families. I suppose they would hardly speak to me (so I hear) now. Why on earth did they not live on the Lansingburgh or Albany Roads and I could they have dropped in almost any day. You need not tell them all I have written but make the proper apologies for me.

Letter of March 28th 1864

Sime Newcomb wishes to be kindly remembered to all the family, he is over to my tent now over five-fourths of the time, talking over our visit home. I guess he wants to get some information, that I either do not or wont know anything about. He was very much shocked to hear of the death of Sarah Potter as you know they were school-girls together at Poultney, and he speaks very high of Sate, and I know she was not engaged to Leroy-Morey.

Remember me to all who enquired and with love Aunt, Uncle, Abbie, Em, Kill, and all absent ones when you write I am as ever

Your Aff. Cousin

Waters

Camp of 93rd N. Y. Vols.  
Near Brandy Station, V.a.  
March 31st, 1864

Dear Em,

I have just received Kill's letter the one directed to HdQrs, am very much obliged to him. I wrote him all the particulars in regard to the "recommendation", also answered his telegraph. There is a rumor here that we are to be brigaded. And we have cried wolf! wolf! so often that I begin to think there is something in it. One reason that makes it look probable is, the 114th P.a. Vols. have been permanently detailed here, because they are Pennsylvanians - still they are a fine Regiment, wear Zouave Uniform, have a fine "band of music", and a change surely is necessary once in two years. We have had our chance here and perhaps it is but just that we try our chance in the "front". I have so much faith in the sayings of "Mother Rumor" this time that I do not believe I will have my trunk sent, for the present. I am a little more anxious on that account about the commission because I should like to get mustered in here by Capt Sanders. Tell Kill that if he gets it to direct to HdQrs.

Of course we know nothing about the Brigade "officially", being merely a story among the boys. And I for one should not be surprised if there was foundation for it to. And we are ready!

There are a great many consolidations growing out of the breaking up of two of the "Corps", and in some Brigades & Divisions the officers have raised a big muss, but such action will only get themselves into a muss. Of course the feeling extends in a measure to the "men" for every one thinks their own Brigade, Division, & Corps the best, and do not like the idea of having it swallowed up by another Corps.

I suppose you was about half scared to death about Kill when he was here, but he can tell you now that there is nothing so very fearfull about a soldiers life, or so very unpleasant either. I hope that if the 93rd is brigaded that none of you will worry on my account, for I can look out for myself if anyone can, and mean to do my duty too. And if it be my fate to die in the field of battle, so be it. As good as myself have died and will before this seasons campaign is over. But I do not mean to if I can help it, and do not fear it at all events.

Tell Abbie that I have not forgotten that I owe her a letter and will not either.

Remember me kindly to the young ladies next door and Miss Virginia if she comes, also to all of Kill's family and any who feel are interest in my welfare. Give my love to all the family over home, with the same for yourself & Kill, I am

Your Aff. Cousin

Waters

Camp of 93rd N. Y. Vols.  
Near Brandy Sta. V.a.  
April 4th, 1864

Dear Uncle,

Your last Kind letter was duly received. I did not answer it immediately because I was corresponding daily with Kill and news would be a drug in the market. There is nothing new or exciting now. The story that we were to leave Head quarters reached the point of having us brigaded in the 2d Corps, but for the past three days seems to have been dying slowly, untill at last we hear no more of it. The Colonel and four of the Captains are on Court Martial that will take them a month at least, and if the Army should chance to move, we should not be likely to leave here, but if the order comes, go we will, and when the time comes we will show them we can do our part of fighting as well as guard duty. It seems that Genl Meade has contemplated sending us away ever since he first took command, and the least thing now will turn the scale for or against our going.

My Commission has not yet arrived I certainly expected it to-day, if Kill had sent it the day he got it, I should have received it yesterday but sending it on Saturday takes one and sometimes two days longer, but it is all right. I am very much obliged to him. I suppose it will be here tomorrow certain. I shall be mustered immediately on its arrival.

Sergeant Myer is here again and goes to Albany again to-morrow. I presume he will be back and forth for a month or six weeks to come.

Capt. Johnson of our Regt. has been appointed Lt. Col. of the 115th N. Y. and will probably leave us tomorrow or next day to join his regiment in Florida. That will make another vacancy of Captain.

I think I must have been mistaken in regard to my not hearing from Mary Wheeler, at all events I have again written.

I am very well indeed, in fact getting fat, and think I shall be able to stand the campaign of the coming season, here if our Uncle George G- is willing, or in a brigade as well.

We have had about three days snow and rain, and the mud you may imagine about hub deep poor look for a sudden move, although I think the campaign will begin at an early day.

Please remember me to Mr. Kerr and Mrs. Kerr also Mr. & Mrs. Robertson, Mr. & Mrs. Knowlson & family and in fact all of the Park Church folks, Young & old.

Give my love to all Aunt, Abbie, Libbie, Em, Kill and all the absent ones when you write, and with the kindest wishes for your own good health I am as ever

Your Aff. Nephew

Waters

To Waters W. Whipple, Esq.

Troy, N. Y.

Camp of 93rd N. Y. Vols.  
Near Brandy Station Va.  
April 5th 1864

Friend Maggie,

Again with pleasure I have to thank you for the Waverleys. Also your favor of Thursday P. M. As you say, it is nice to have a correspondent. To me it is certainly so, and who would not feel satisfied with the very one they would have picked from a thousand to exchange thought with. I have always had a holy, but undefined, horror of lady correspondents, and scarce dared to indulge in such luxuries, for fear of some of the nonsensical trash which some of the fairer (I beg your pardon, sterner) sex are prone to indulge in. But if I had taken my choice among all the young ladies it was my good fortune to meet while at home, I should certainly have chosen Miss Maggie G. and I am now satisfied that my judgement would not have proved false. Excuse all that. But little did I dream that I was to be so fortunate when I went home. I am glad I went.

In obedience to your request I have again written to Robert and he may thank his stars that he has so good a sister to think of him. I wish I had. I have heard from him indirectly however through a letter that Kill received and forwarded to my benefit, so I did not feel altogether like a stranger in writing to him.

I hope, if you see anything in the Waverley, that particularly recommends itself to your thoughts and sentiments, and you think proper, that you will mark it for my benefit, and dont erase the marks afterwards, for I am sure you would not call my attention to any article that was not good and sensible, which I could not fail to appreciate. I am very much attached to the said Waverley and think it the best magazine for young people and old too that I ever have seen. I am gratefull to you for sending it, for you little dream of the idle hours in camp, and lonesome, homesick, hours too they are. With the thousand and one ways of getting rid of them, therefore, I should thank and be gratefull to the one who took interest enough in my welfare to assist me in "conquering" that enemy "Idleness" and the many "temptations" he claims as allies. Therefore I agree with you that "it is more blessed etc"

You are pleased to be severe on "Lansingburgh" with reason perhaps, for I too am ashamed that I allowed new friends to consume so much of my time to the sad neglect of many older and tried ones. The regret comes too late alas! You are like the girls over home. They think they know all about it, and give me credit for more visits to that "abused village" than I am entitled to. But when the reasons why come to be all explained, my few visits will be easily accounted for. It is very natural for a young man to call the second time, when he is made to feel at home on his first visit and urged to call again. And that is one reason why I always felt so at your house. But enough on that subject, suffice to say that Lansingburgh has a friend a Captain in this army and a friend of mine with a very similar name also.

I think that Day vs. Gubbins case a very singular one, but am not all surprised, and as you say, hope Miss Emma will have sense enough to treat it as it deserves. I hope she wont have him, you feel so anxious on the subject.

How does my friend Katty flourish or do you not know? I came near forgetting all the news. The 93rd are to be brigaded, so says "Dame Rumor" (how curious that the story venders are all of the feminine gender") and the ancient lady further informs us that we are to join the 2d Corps. Now this is the same story that we have heard for over a year and a half, still with more of the color of truth this time than ever before. If so, we are ready at the word, to bid good-bye to our snug quarters at HdQrs. and take our chances among the more dangerous but less arduous duties of more active service. Another piece of news is that I have been promoted to Captain and am supposed to be obeyed and respected accordingly. Remember me to all. Your Father, Mother, Mill, Frank and Saray and family. Awaiting yours in reply I am

Your friend

Waters

Miss Maggie Getty  
West Troy, N. Y.



Camp of 93rd N. Y. Vols.  
Near Brandy Sta. V.a.  
April 18th, 1864

My Dear Cousin Lib,

Your last of the 9th I had the pleasure of receiving in due time. I am very much obliged to you for the Photographs and to you all for the box and shirts which by the way have not yet arrived, but I am expecting it every day and am going to Washington in a few days and will get it then certain.

I have been very busy lately straightening out the affairs of Co "H" as you know Capt Wilson was away so long and the intermediate commanders not having responsibility let everything go as long as possible - but I have about got everything all right. Our Regiment have to-day drawn new Springfield Rifled Muskets, pattern of 1863 - they are much nicer than the Old Enfields. And we feel proud of them accordingly.

General Grant reviewed the sixth corps and the Artillery Reserve today. I saw the latter. It is said the Sixth Corps review was the finest ever witnessed in the Army.

All citizens, sutlers and the like are gone from the Army, and we are left alone in our glory.

The Brigade rumor has like all its predecessors died a natural death, and is no more. The last we heard of it was that the General wanted to have a regiment of Regulars but since he could not succede in getting them preferred to retain the 93rd.

I am glad however that I did not have my trunk sent down, as all the others have or will have to send theirs away. I wish you had sent my slippers in the box, but after we get on the march I shall not need them.

I do not know what you mean by my insinuations, and as to what I know about Sarah Potter that is told me confidentially, and that is something I never betray.

I hope you wont think this note paper looks suspicious as it is some belongs to a young Lieut. lately appointed in Co. "K" and my key unlocks his valise. And even then I think I only keep about even with him.

Remember me to all who think often enough of me to enquire, and with love to Uncle, Aunt, Abbie, Em, Kill, and all

I am as ever

Your Aff. Cousin

Waters

Camp of 93rd N. Y. Vols.  
Near Brandy Station, V.a.  
April 18th, 1864

Friend Kill,

I have the pleasure of acknowledging two favors from you the last containing the Shoulder Straps, arrived this evening. They are very good, and will suit first rate. They are not just like the old first Lieut straps. They are the best I think I ever saw.

You should have been here to-day. There was a grand review of the Sixth Corps to-day by Generals Grant and Meade and it is said it was the "biggest thing" of the kind ever gotten up in this Army. I did not see it, but there was a review of the Artillery Reserve (on the ground you remember we walked over, going to see the siege guns, and came back afoot) and I did see that. Ulyses S. goes in high style.

Vet bothers the life out of Ball about the Catawba Brandy, and you know Ball is no match for him.

The Box has not yet arrived, but I am expecting it along daily. I Hope it will come before the things spoil.

Sime Newcomb's commission has not yet arrived. I am at a loss to account for its delay. The notice of his and my own appointment came some days since. At my suggestion Sime went down to Grants head-quarters to-day to see if he could learn anything about it, but without success, and I think it mighty strange. Sime has been awaiting its arrival to write you an elaborate letter of thanks, and although he feels somewhat dissapointed, he says nothing. Col. Johnson took his leave of his old home this morning and he felt real sad at leaving his old haunts, runways and pals. I think that either Adj. Gifford or Lieut Francis Bailey will get the next captaincy. I do not feel at all anxious on the subject myself. By the way I forgot to say that I was mustered in as Capt. on the 13th Inst, and got it dated back to the fourth, the day before it arrived here, so everything is lovely.

The Sutler's, that place renowned far for oysters and Bay-water is defunct. Its remains were last seen being sadly borne towards the station en-route for Washington.

We got our pay day before yesterday. I do not know as I shall be sending home any money this time as I have only got about \$125 after paying an unusually large sutler's bill and the opening campaign bids fair soon to commence. Did you charge me with the ten Dollars you gave me the day you left here. If not please do so, I have forgotten whether I was to send it to you, or you was to charge it. I am very much obliged to you for procuring the straps and trust some day to be able to repay many favors which I am your debtpr.

I had a letter from Robt. I. a few days since, he is all peaches as usual, and spoke of receiving your last.

Remember me to all over to Fourth street, love to all over home. Ditto for yourself & Em & Believe me

As ever

Waters

Camp of 93rd N. Y. Vols.  
Near Brandy Sta. Va.  
April 21st 1864

Friend Maggie Jane,

I am very glad to hear you found the time, which I had almost begun to fear you had lost. It is scarcely fair to say that either, for I do you more justice than to think you could forget, unless perhaps. I regret to learn of your having met with an accident. Allow me to sympathize with you, and hope that ere this you are convalescent.

Since hearing from you I have received a good long letter from your dutiful brother. It fully makes up for all deficiencies in the past, and is full of promise for the future. He is, if his word is to be relied upon, (and I do him that credit) more contented, now that he is more actively engaged, than when he was doing orderly duty for the army officers.

The 93rd are at last B-r-i-g-a-d-e-d, and those beautiful colors so long borne, and so galliantly at Hdqrs, are at last to pay a maiden call upon the rebellious sons of our respected Uncle. We are in the 2d brigade 3d Division 2d Corps, although our entire Division are a part of the 3d Corps and we will wear the Old Kearney patch, a red diamond, as our badge of distinction, and if the 3d Corps are ever re-organized we shall undoubtedly join it. We have no reason to complain, we took our leave of Hdqrs with flying colors. I may say we graduated with honor, and have left a good reputation, and hosts of friends, both high and low. The brigade Division & Corps are all we could wish, their name (now ours) is above reproach as soldiers. And when the proper time comes the 93d will do their share to sustain that name. For one I can freely say (and say it boldly) that I am satisfied with the change.

Your insinuations with regard to "Lansingburgh", "Captains", and "very near friends", I fail to understand. (If it were so I would have told you) I can only say in indication of my own innocence that I this evening called upon Capt. Brennan of the 3d Mich. Vols. a friend of mine in this fighting brigade, and he showed me a landscape which I immediately recognized as the fair and gentle Lansingburgh, and for aught I can say "She may be etc. etc." Perhaps you intended that paragraph for him. I can excuse you on account of the similarity of names. Yes it must be that, is it not? It was that last verse which impressed me favorably, in the piece that was erased. I did not form a very high opinion of the rest of it. Your memory must be perfect and I can not for the life of me see how you came to mistake me for my friend Capt. Brennan.

My friend "Katty", well you have got a little the start of me there. For I did think her quite a promising young lady untill a little circumstance occurred which considerably changed my opinion. And I honor you for your deferance and respect for your Mothers wishes. If I had ever had one (doubtfull?) I think I should, yes I know it! Friendship! What is it, but the tie which binds these whom

circumstances have brought together, as easily broken as the bond which confines mortals to this earth. To be sure time cements some friendships which binds heart to heart never to be severed, but a Mothers love, what can excede that? It overlooks all, and never relinquishes the affection due to a child. That is one of my few misfortunes, never to have had a mother, and I can only think what is due to such a relative, and what I would, and would not do to comply with her every wish and thought. I pray you to excuse me for speaking so openly of my feelings, but I do consider you my friend, and if my particular friends are few, I can say my enemies are far less in number.

Adieu to Hdqrs, Wall Tents, "Soft bread", extra baggage, and the kindred luxuries. Come "Hard-tack" and what ever hardships are connected with a soldiers life. I am ready for it, and willing to do my duty and if I ever do come out of this war (of which I have not a doubt) I mean to have it said that I ever did my duty.

I intend to write Bob and hope to do as well by him as he has by me. He speaks of the gentle Annie, and I should judge that they were on the best of terms. I hope so as it seems to be your own and the wish of all. I'll give him the best of advice on the subject.

Remember me to all who deem my welfare worth the trouble of enquiring. My regards to all the family at home & Mr & Mrs Jones & baby. You need not pay my respects in Lansingburgh as I sent them by the Captain, With kindest wishes, and regards for yourself, I am

Your friend

Waters

Miss Maggie Jane Getty  
West Troy, N. Y.

Camp of 93rd N. Y. Vols.  
2d Brigd 3d Div 2d Corps.  
Near Brandy Sta. V.a.  
April 26th 1864

Dear Cousin Abbie,

Your last of the 20th Inst. I received the first letter after being brigaded. I am glad to hear that you are all and especially that Uncle Waters is so well. I hope you will have a safe and pleasant trip out West. I had a letter last evening from Mary Wheeler they were all well and were expecting you out soon, and were preparing to receive you.

There is lots of folks getting married 'aint' there? Some folks would. They may for all of me I shall when I get ready but cant say that I am just now. If any one asks, you can tell them You dont know. It is very strange that if a young man goes to Lansingburgh, once or twice, or West Troy two or three several times & perhaps comes back by the way of N. Y. City, he is gone certain, and it is known in Wabash, Ind. ere he known it himself. I think I shall be in less danger on Picket tomorrow, then in either of the above mentioned places. Remember me to all the marriageable young ladies in Troy & vicinity. I will beau all around next winter that I failed to do this last one.

We like it very much in the brigade we are in. We moved camp today, only a little way however. I guess it was to make the offices send off any surplus baggage, and you know one never knows how much they have got till they come to move. I am going on Picket tomorrow, to be gone three days. I do not see how I shall be able to carry eatables enough to last me that length of time, that is all that troubles me just now.

I received Kills last yesterday but shall not answer it untill I return to Camp on the 1st or 2d of May.

Give my love to all the family out Wabash, and to all in Troy. Remember me to all friends and believe me as ever,

Your Aff. Cousin,

Waters

Enclosed I send a picture of my orderley sergeant John W. Godden.

W

Sat. night May 7 '64  
9 O. C. P. M.  
Camp in the field  
Between Chancellorsville & Gordonsville

Dear Uncle,

We have been fighting for three days constantly, on very nearly the same ground the regiment has been engaged with the Rebels five times.

I am not wounded, but have three bullet holes and one shell through my clothing, and one bullet struck my sword and bended it pretty bad, so I have five marks about me to remember the Rebs by. Capt. Barnes was killed the second day, on a charge. Co. C suffered very much.

The Regt lost 15 officers killed & wounded and about 245 men.

Sgt Myer was badly wounded (in the head) as he was carrying the colors on the first day.

Of my own Co, I have Lt. Ball wounded (slightly in the foot), Sgt. Smith is killed (picture enclosed) and 17 or 18 men killed and wounded, out of 47 I brought into the fight.

I got three holes in my clothing and my sword bent the first day in less than half an hour. The next morning at daylight we charged and drove the Rebels about a mile & a half and on that charge I got the shell, which struck me right on the ankle between the feet, and although it stung a little did not bleed me at all and in fact only damaged my trousers, which on my right leg are in rags. Two of the bullet shots, one on my leg, and one on my arm, just started the skin and that was all, so I am all right, and hope to be tomorrow?

The news has just come, that the Rebs are leaving, the firing has ceased in our front and we are under orders to march immediatly, tonight.

Love to all - good night. In haste

Ever your Nephew,

Waters

P. S. The fighting today was terrible.

W

11 A. M. Monday  
Camp I do not know where  
May 9 '64

Dear Uncle,

I am all right yet, there will probably be no fighting of any account today, but perhaps to-morrow. I think we will have it a little easier now, for we have suffered terribly in our Brigade - but we drove the Rebs every time. Enclosed I send a copy of an order just read to the regiment, Our Brigade have lost over half their number killed & wounded. Our Brigade Gen. Hays was killed the first day, and all the brigade staff are either killed or wounded, the last one Lt. Judkins was killed yesterday afternoon, by a shell while showing our regt. when to take up our position to return a brigade that was engaged, Since I wrote two days ago we have only lost about 15 men killed & Wounded - our loss in all is

4 officers killed  
13 officers wounded  
41 men killed  
198 " wounded  
256 total killed & wounded

Col. Crocker commands the brigade since the first day. He does splendidly - Maj McConihe ditto. They have both had very narrow escapes.

Love to all -

In haste

Waters

Hd. Qrs. 3d Div. 2d Corps.  
May 9 '64  
10 O'c A. M.

Colonel,

Will you express to the officers & men of your gallant regiment,  
my full appreciation of their distinguished conduct in the recent engagements.

(signed) D. V. Birney  
Maj. General

Col Crocker



Hd. Qrs. 3d Div. 2d Corps.  
Wednesday May 11 '64

Dear Uncle,

Since writing you, day before yesterday, I have been detailed as the Provost Marshall of our Division, on the Staff of Maj. Genl. Birney. So I now have a horse to ride and much easier times. I knew nothing of being detailed untill the order came, and I think myself in luck. Not that I feared to do my duty in the Regt, for I consider that it was because I did it so well that I was detailed here. Genl B- thinks the 93d are the Regt.

Our Brigade was not engaged yesterday, although the fighting was very severe. The other brigade of our Div. lost heavily.

You need not feel at all alarmed on my account, for although in more or less danger, I feel that I shall come out all right.

Did you get my two other letters?

In future address my letters to HdQrs 3d Div 2d Corps dont put on the Regt.

With love to all I remain as ever,

Your Aff. Nephew

Waters

P. S. We are driving the Rebels every day, and mean to keep them going - W

Our Corps are laying now near Spottsylvania C. H. V.a.

Genl B- has a splendid staff. I shall undoubtedly remain here all summer.

W-

Hd Qrs 3d Div 2d Corps.  
Near Spottsylvania C. H.  
May 16th 1864

Dear Uncle & Aunt,

I have written to you every chance I have had, I think three times, have you received them? I am still at Genl Birneys Hd Qrs. Our staff grows gradually smaller & smaller as one and another is killed, wounded, or missing, but I am still all right aside from being pretty well tired out. We are getting a days rest to-day, and what there is of the army will be O. K. to-morrow. My duty on the staff mostly consists in commanding the Provost Guard, receiving and sending forward Prisonors of War, arresting straglers etc. But yet I am liable at any moment to be called on by the Genl to carry an order to the troops, or something of the sort when the rest of the staff are likewise employed. I like Genl Birney very much. I turned over to Genl Hancock a few days since Eleven flags of the enemys, captured by our Division, one by a Corporal in my own Co. The 2d Corps and the 3d Div are all O. K. with Genl Grant, and the 93d is ditto in this Division and well they might be if amount of fighting and number of killed and wounded are any criterion. The 93d have had 20 officers killed and wounded and about 290 or 300 Enlisted men.

We are having some few men come on from Washington. Col Butler returned last night with the last of the Recruiting party that he had with him.

Col. Crocker is all right. Also Maj. McC. who had done splendidly, and had some very narrow escapes, as have every man and officer in the regiment, or in the army. Lt. Newcomb is all right, he is on Col. Crocker's staff as A. D. C.

We have received no mail for the Army, only the different Hd Qrs. We have mail at our Hd Qrs but of course none for me, since the campaign opened, but I trust soon to hear, if you direct as enclosed.

I think the fight will be resumed to-day or tomorrow morning, and I trust, and believe, the result will be in our favor.

I wish you would ask Kill to send me a pair of Staff Shoulder Straps for myself. They should be Captains with a black ground, not very large ones of dead bullion if possible. Also about  $3\frac{1}{2}$  yards of gilt braid about  $\frac{3}{16}$  of an inch in width, for stripe to pants. Deacon Rundell will know the kind.

With love to Aunt Hannah, Lib, Abbie, Em, Kill, and all in Union V-  
I am as ever, your aff. Nephew

Waters

Hdqrs. 3d Div 2d Corps  
Near Spottsylvania C. H. va.  
May 19 1864

Friend Maggie,

Your esteemed favor of the 31st ult is just received, by the first mail since the beginning of this, so far, very lively campaign. I am perfectly willing to bear any responsibility or blame arising from your writing on Sunday, except that imposed by your own conscience which I trust will be very lenient especially since it is a duty to write to "our brothers". But aside from that I can assure you that it is a pleasure highly esteemed, by all soldiers, and by me to be honored with a correspondence from a friend, especially I can say I appreciate yours but think you underrate your own prowess and abilities.

I know of no foundation to the story of my having re-enlisted, other than a rumor, that all officers who availed themselves of the "thirty-five days furlough" would be held with the men. But if at the expiration of my original term, I can hororably leave the service, I shall do so, and I see no reason why I can not. If we are to have much fighting of the latest fashion there will be neither officers or men to retain. In fact it is already found necessary to consolidate regiments. I for one hope to be alive at the close of the season's campaign, and trust too by that time, to see the close of this rebellion.

You of course are willing to let "Lansingburgh" drop especially as you have the best of the argument. I will only say, by way of news which I am very sorry to have to write, that my namesake Capt. B of the 3d Mich was killed or taken prisoner on a "charge" made by this Div. on the Second days fight.

I regret to learn of Frankie's sickness, poor fellow I hope he will outgrow it in time. I am glad to hear of Sarahs being settled in her new home. Give my best wishes to her for her success in house-keeping and for the entire, and speedy, recovery of herself and the boy.

I also have been the satisfied recipient of another letter from Robt. I think that is doing very well for him, and feel assured that my hopes for him will yet be realized.

You have my sincere thanks for your kind wishes for my success and safe return. Return I do intend to, thats certain.

Next in yours, comes, (woman like) that P. S. (If possible more inexplicable than the "Lansingburgh affair", I pray your pardon for mentioning it) What do you mean by "you suppose this very agreeable correspondence must close before long?" I trust you will explain. I for one can not see the necessity for it, but as it always takes two to agree ----- But I leave it in good hands, and await your reply.

Here I have nearly filled this sheet and have written nothing yet. The 93d was in all the fights at the "Wilderness" and here. I do not wish to boast, but the loss of three hundred officers and men and the name they bear in this Division is sufficient praise. But what can compensate for the loss of friends, that we have marched, tented, messed, and lived with for over two years. There is my old Capt. (Barnes) who

was killed in the fight of the second day. His company neither carried his body off the field or took the things from his pockets, and my company passed right over his body, on the charge of the 3d day, and the Rebels had stripped him of everything. I was detailed a few days since as Provost Marshall of our Division, so I now have a horse to ride and my position places me upon the staff of Maj. Genl Birney, and think this a little safer position. But as it was entirely unsought after by me, I do not know as I am to blame for accepting. As for myself throughout the fight I can only say that I was in my place, and did my duty to the utmost. And I have five (5) marks of Rebel shot and shell, about my clothing, to show for it, but am most happy to be alive to say I am unhurt in person. I have lost about one-third of my company so far. My 1st Lieut was wounded but is now in command of the Co.

If as I hope this correspondence is to continue, your will please address me Capt. W. W. B. Hdqrs 3d Div 2d Corps, A. of P.

With kind regards to Mr & Mrs G, Mill and Frankie & Sarah & Mr J & their boy. I am with continued assurances of my best wishes for yourself

Your Friend

Waters

Miss Maggie Getty  
West Troy, N. Y.

Pray excuse style etc. W--

Headquarters, Birney's Division,  
Second Army Corps,  
May 20th 1864

Dear Cousin Libbie,

Yours of the 10th Inst, I received last evening, and Carries this morning, I was very glad to hear from home as it was the first since leaving camp. I think there must be a mail back yet.

Yesterday morning we left the extreme right of the Army and came down to the left, and lay quiet all day, and began to flatter ourselves that we were to have a quiet day, but no such luck for this Div. - for about dark the Rebs came down on our right and broke through to the Fredricksburgh turnpike, and we were ordered down on the double-quick and got there just in time to lose about 20 men from our 1st brigade. We got in position, and about 3 o'clock this morning advanced and drove the Rebs across the NY River and we are now back where we were yesterday, and hope to have the first day of rest in 15 days. I guess they want to let us rest, for a night movement soon. If there is any-thing of the kind, we are in for it sure, and we are ready.

The 93rd did not lose a man last night. I like it here to HdQrs even better than HdQrs A. of P. We live first rate, when the Rebs are willing to let us.

I have not seen Mr. Robertson yet expect to go to Fredricksburgh in a day or so. I would to-day but my horse needs rest and I do too. I wrote two letters before the one that Carrie speaks of and one or two since. I think I will write to Uncle W. out to Wabash. I trust you will not worry to much about me, for I feel that I shall come out of this war all right. I will write to Em in a day or so, but you must not look for long letters. As for war news you have a good deal more in the papers than ever occurs, and that beats me. Remember me to all friends who inquire. With Love to all I am as ever

Your Aff. cousin

Waters

Near Hanover Junction  
HdQrs 3d Div 2d Corps  
May 25th 1864

10 O'c. A. M.

Dear Em,

Your letter I rec'd at the same time as Kill's and Libs. I was beginning to think you was never going to write, and yet I knew better.

In regard to those pictures they are all finished, at Washington, and as soon as I can get a chance to see the Photographer I will have them sent direct to Kill.

I intended writing direct to Uncle Waters at Wabash, but the movements of the past few days and the receipt of Libbies last letter saying they would be home on Saturday, I have decided not to.

Our Div, as usual has been somewhat engaged with the enemy during the past four days. Lt Little of the 93d had his foot shot off. Lt Newcomb has his ankle fractured, but not badly - the 93d have suffered more than any other regiment I know of. 22 officers and about 335 men killed and wounded.

We are slowly driving the enemy all the time, yesterday in front of the 2d Corps was one continual roar and rattle of musketry and cannon. Our Div crossed the River (North Anna) in the face of a terrible fire of grape, and canister, seasoned with solid shot, shell and all the fashionable missals of modern warfare. We are laying still today, that is as much so as we can in sight of rebel earthworks and in range of veteran Sharpshooters. But a friendly hill shelters the sacred bodies of the Maj Genl Comm and Staff, and yet neither Genl B - or any of his staff fear to go where, it seems impossible for any live thing to live a single minute.

In the charge of night before last my company lost 5 in killed and wounded.

The rebels are continually coming in as prisoners, some are very bitter, others are a great deal more so only the other way, and they are by far the greater in number. They say that Lees army is very much dissatisfied and that their leaders tell them all sorts of lies, and that it is impossible for one of them to learn the truth of anything that transpires outside of their own corps. We have Longstreets corps in our front, they report him very dangerously wounded through the left breast, the second days fight at the Wilderness. Everything looks hopeful with us, we fortify every night what ground we gain by day, so that we mean to hold all we do get. The Rebs wont face the breastwork they have tried it too often to their sorrow in this campaign.

Ask Kill to send me by mail, a set of staff buttons, 13 large and 6 small ones.

Remember me to the young ladies, and all enquiring friends. Give to all the family, without robbing yourself and Kill, the love of

Your aff. cousin

Waters

In haste

HdQrs 3d Div 2d Army Corps  
Near Hanover-town V.a.  
May 29th 1864 Sunday

Dear Cousin Libbie,

Your letter of the 19th was received some days since. I am very sorry my letters did not arrive more promptly, so as to save you any uneasiness on my account, but it must have been from the irregularity of the mails. I see that the New York papers and also Philadelphia reported me as killed. I think that occurred by the men who were wounded on the charge of the second day as I did not get out of the fight for some time after the regiment was relieved

We are now on the south side of the Pamunkey River about fifteen miles above the White-House. We are laying still to-day, but have marched night and day to get here so the men need the rest, pretty badly.

The 93d have not lost any men since I wrote last (to Em). Lieut Newcomb was not very badly wounded. I suppose he will get a furlough home and will undoubtedly call at the house.

I suppose the folks have returned home ere this. I trust they stood the journey well.

The country we have been marching through for the past two days has heretofore been unvisited by the Yankees except cavalry. Some of the families cleared out and left everything and as a natural consequence their property is pretty well destroyed, but where the inhabitants have remained we have given them guards and prevented marauding as much as possible, but my guard dont disturb the boys if they do once in a while get a pig or a chicken especially where the politics of the said pig or chicken is decidedly secesh.

We are again on the Peninsula and soon will the second Peninsular campaign begin I hope with better success than the other. The base of supplies for the Army will probably be at White-House. We destroyed the Fredricksburg road so it can never be used without entire re-building. Quite a number of the regiments in our division are going home or rather what is left of them, and that is mighty few I can tell you. They were all in the first battle of Bull Run and have escaped but few, since that time. A great many of the regimental organizations will remain on account of Veterans and recruits, but consolidations will be necessary ere long.

We are having very fine weather indeed and hope it will continue. I wish you would thank all my friends who are kind enough to enquire after me, and also remember me to them. I have not seen Mr. Robertson yet and hardly think I shall for Genl B's HdQrs are generally about two hundred yards from the front line, and my business is about there too, and the christian commission will scarce come so far.

With Love to Uncle, Aunt, Abbie, Em, Kill Delight and the children, and the family in general, I will write to Carrie soon. I suppose she has gone home. I remain as ever.

Your aff. cousin

Waters

Camp of 93rd N. Y. Vols.  
2d Brigd, 3d Div, 2 Corps.  
May 1st 1864

Dear Cousin Libbie,

Have just returned from a three days "tour" of "Picket Duty". Yours of the 24th ult. was sent out to the outpost to me. I regret to learn of the indisposition of Aunt Hannah, and hope she will be entirely recovered in time to start on the Wabash trip. I had a letter from Mary and they are all anxiously looking forward to the expected visit, and were preparing to make the folks feel at home when they do arrive.

I am glad to hear that you all had so nice a time up to "the village" and that it was such a perfect succes (on Carrie's account). Sime Newcomb plays innocence in regard to any young lady in Union V-- enquiring after him. That piece of news in regard to the "Double Wedding" was, a few days since, quite a piece of information to me, but I have heard it so many times now, that it does not seem so strange. It is a good deal like a man "telling a lie so often, that he begins to believe it himself after a while". And what every one says must be so. How do you do, Madame Cannada? But I do think it must have been some good friend of mine, who started the story in the first place. If it were true I should not want to deny the fact, for I think Miss G--- a moddle young lady, one whome none need blush to acknowledge, but so far as I am concerned, I can freely say that "Madame Rumor" l--s, and I have your word that the "old lady" tells a fib in your case, so I think you can safely contradict both stories, but I hope the day may come, and an early one, when there will be more foundation for a matrimonial scandal, or rather gossip, in your case and who knows but in my own too. All I have to do is to get this job finished, and then commence looking up the other party to the bargain.

If Mr. Robertson has not started tell him that he can find me, by following the Railroad beyond Brandy Station for about a mile to a big white house, take the road that turns to the left and the regiment is in plain sight, the first one, in an orchard. And I shall be more than glad to see him, at my quarters.

We are having Drills, Reviews, and Inspections, in succession, as sure as Tuesday follows washing day. But like the Brigade right well, (question? would it make any differance if we were not satisfied?)

Give my love to Uncle, Aunt, and Abbie, (with them a pleasant and safe journey, for me) also to Kill and Em (thank her for her last favor). And with kind remembrances to all my friends in Troy and elsewhere, I am as ever,

Your aff. coz.

Waters

P. S. Give my love to Carrie, Job & Birdie when they come. Tell Carrie to remember me to all the young ladies in U. V. who were kind enough to enquire after me. W



HdQrs 3d Div 2d A Corps  
June 3d 1864  
Near Cold Harbor V.a.

Dear Uncle,

Yours from Wabash of the 22d, I have just received. I am very glad to hear from you direct for the first time since on this campaign, and also that you are not more "used up" than you write, by your journey.

You are right in supposing my position now to be one less dangerous than in command of a company. But still if I do my duty, as I intend to I shall be more or less under fire every time the Division or any part of it are engaged. And any one at Genl Bs HdQrs is very apt to be.

For a wonder this Division has been in reserve to-day, and have suffered only from shelling.

The 93rd have been very fortunate lately, there are no other officers wounded than I have written or you have seen published in the papers.

I also recd tonight two letters from Kill. Am very much obliged to him for the Straps and gold braid. The Straps are excellant. I can-not tell just at this moment whether I owe any of the girls a letter and this must do for all. I think however I only owe one to Carrie.

Our base of supplies now is at White House. It is expected to have the rail-road in operation in a few days. We expect some hard fighting now every day, and hope to be succesfull.

I have not seen Mr. Robertson yet, and scarce expect to unless I go down to White House on business.

My own health is very good and I trust you are ere this recovered from the effects of your journey.

Give my love to all the family at Home and away. Remember me to Mr. Kerr and all the Park Church folks and to all friends who enquire and believe me as ever.

Your Aff. Nephew

Waters

Head Quarters 3d Div 2d Corps  
Near Cold Harbor Va  
June 4th 1864

Friend Maggie,

Your favor of Thursday afternoon, not dated, but correctly directed, I received with pleasure last evening. Your "thousand and one" excuses are unnecessary, in regard to your letters being tedious etc. for I consider this the best of any, as I was not a little troubled by that unlucky P. S. and was somewhat - what? I dont know! Perhaps anxious.

Unlike you, I am rejoyced to learn of the advent of the renowned and long expected Count De-Gubbins on Mlle. Emma's account. I suppose his presence now, satisfactorily explains his long delay, for I believe he was expected sooner. I beg you to congratulate the happy couple on that eventfull day in June for me, and I hope that not a single cloud may ever darken their sky. Neither the title of count be washed away in crossing salt water. But that the best wishes of her own family for her may be fullfilled. I perfectly agree with you that I should be thankfull for not having been killed, but as to the wounded part, why in the patriotic times of the present day, a wound is certain thirty to ninety days furlough. The fortunate owner of a slight wound is sure to escape months of fatigue and privation. I am a great deal more thankfull that we live well at Hdqrs. than that I am not wounded. I shall not even get wounded though if I can have my way.

For a wonder, during the severe fighting of yesterday, the 3d Div 2d Corps was in reserve, although moving about under fire the entire day. What today has in store for us I know not, and care less, if we only succede as we ever have, and hope to. We are getting our supplies from White-house, the Rail-road is soon to be in running order. We are on McClellan's old fighting ground, and his Shovels and Picks are very fashionable, although they were not (in the papers) in his time. I hope for the best, but we must have some terrible fighting before the fall of Richmond. All have confidence and hope in General Grant.

I trust you will not think me hasty in answering, but when we receive a mail there is also a chance to send one. Therefore I write this morning, not knowing when I may have another chance to send.

What a "proficient" you will get to be in Housekeeping, even to "Rocking the cradle". You will certainly be a model wife for some fortunate young man.

Oh: "I would this war were over", and although I trust and hope this summer the Rebs will see the folly of their ways and give up, yet I am perfectly satisfied with what fighting I have seen and expect to see, and the coming fall sees me in citizens clothes if possible. And as long as there is a "39 First street", I think I will stay there. I hope Bob will arrive safely and to remain. I have written him, but have not heard from him since I wrote you last.

I suppose I should appologize for having misconstrued that P. S. but it is now forgotten so I can not.

Please write me all about the Second Street wedding. Are you to "stand up" with Emma? How well I remember Sarah's wedding, and how badly you all felt.

Remember me kindly to your Mother and Father, Sarah & family, Mill & Frankie, ditto Miss Maggie who I trust will not forget in her prayers

her friend

Waters

HdQrs 3d Div 2d Corps  
June 9th 1864  
Near Gains Hill V.a.

Dear Cousins Abbie & Libbie,

Your letters Abbies of the 31st ult and Libbies of the 3d Inst, I have just received. I answer both at once because I do not know when the chance will come again before I have more from home, although I think when the Railroad gets in operation we will get a daily mail.

As you can see we are getting slowly towards Richmond. The Rebs have very strong Earthworks, so have we only short musket range from theirs. All attempts of either party to carry the works of the other has been defeated with loss to the attacking party. Everything looks as if we were going to make a regular siege of it the rest of the war to the heart of Secessiondom. Sutlers are to be allowed in the Army. The different HdQrs have their tents up, bands playing etc.

The Rebs gave our HdQrs a terrible shelling last night, doing great damage to the trees and mortally offending our sensitive ears, but doing no other damage. They have been quiet to-day I think they got the worst of it last night, for our two Batteries, right in front of our HdQrs fired at them for an hour after they had done firing at us.

I have not seen Mr. Robertson yet although Libbie writes he is assigned to this Division, he is either at the Hospital or at White-house, probably the latter, I may go down.

I am glad to hear that the Western Tourists arrived safely and are feeling so well over their trip - I would like to be home for a few days just now that all the folks are there. You must have a house full. But that would be only natural.

I am very well and like more and more my position at these HdQrs. I must needs get poisoned in swimming the other day, but am all right again, each limb was as big as two ought to be, but not in the least sore, neither did it keep me a minute out of the saddle.

I am glad to hear that Fred Myers is at home and so as to be around. He is just as good a boy as there is in this Army. Sime Newcomb I hear is home too. None of them can other than give a good account of me.

I think I must have received all letters except one from Uncle Waters, if he wrote two, for I only recd one.

Love to all, at home and abroad, regards to all the young ladies & friends in general. As ever

In hast Cousin

Waters

P. S. Enclosed I send a Photo of one of the staff, a Philadelphian.

W-

HDQRS 3rd Div. 2nd Corps.

Near Petersburg, Va.,

June 17th, 1864

Dear Uncle;

You will doubtless think I have delayed in writing, but tonight is the first chance to send mail that we have had for over a week.

We crossed the James River three days ago and are now about one mile east of Petersburg. We have had some severe fighting but so far have been successful and hope to take the City of P---- within the next twenty four hours.

I have been very well, as usual, Your last letter I received two days before we crossed the river. I am glad to learn that you are still feeling so well after your journey and hope you and Aunt Hannah will continue so. It must seem like old times to have Delight and the children all there. You will scarcely get lonesome.

I do not know what has been the loss in the 93rd in this fight, not at all severe however. They are very lucky of late, in fact the Brigade has been.

Our army and trains all passed the River in safety, quite a large undertaking to cross an army like this over so large a river.

We have taken about 700 prisoners today and 2 guns. Neither the men or guns were ever used against the Army of the Potomac before. The guns are not likely to be again (Beauregards Corps).

The weather is most favorable for us and we must accomplish something soon. I hope to see the winding up of this war this summer.

I owe Kill a letter and will write soon. Tell him not to wait, however.

Remember me to all friends and give my love to Aunt Hannah and all, and believe me as ever,

Your Aff. Nephew,

Waters

PS I wish you would credit Peter McDonnell with (29.00) Dollars and charge it to me. I have the money but do not think it safe to send it by mail.

Waters

HdQrs 3d Div 2d Corps.  
Near Petersburg, V.a.  
June 19, 1864

Dear Kill & Em,

We are a little nearer Petersburg than when I wrote to Uncle W--. The Rebs have a strong position as we know to our cost.

I recd Kill's letter over a week ago and Ems last night. I am all right and feeling well as possible.

Genl Birney is in command of the Corps, and Genl Mott (late comdg. 3d brigade) is in command of the Division. It will probably be but for a few days, owing to the breaking out afresh of wounds received by Genl Hancock at Gettysburgh. I wish Genl Birney could be permantantly in command of the Corps. I do not know as it would change my position at all, but for his sake it would suit me, and if I had any change it would undoubtedly be to accompany him to Corps HdQrs. That would be very hard indeed (?)

We have just heard that Major Birney (the Generals half brother, and lately the Adjt General of this Division) is dead, he left sick about ten days ago. He was a splendid officer in his department, and a good friend of mine, and beside the General I feel his loss as much as any one at these HdQrs. He died at home in Philadelphia, and leaves a young wife, only married last winter.

In the late fights the 93d have lost but few men and only one officer wounded, (Lieut. Fitch).

Lieut Hubbell has got the commision of Capt. that Lieut Kincaid was trying to get. I am glad of it to, although Lieut H-- tried to get the best of me, you remember.

Those pictures of Kills, I have ordered sent from Washington, and if you have not already received them, you will soon. I think I acknowledged the receipt of the braid, straps, & buttons, all first rate.

I am in hopes as soon as we get an Express office started to send Kills spurs and my sword home to Kill.

If Kill, you were only here now I could show you lots of sights without leaving camp, but I am glad you are not, for it is very unhealthy now days.

Give my respects to the Fourth street family and to the young ladies next door, has Ginnie Christer come yet? When she does remember me to her.

With love to all the family over home, and kind wishes for you both, I am as ever.

Your Aff. Cousin

Waters

(In haste)

Near Petersburg - V.a.  
HdQrs 3d Div. 2d Corps.  
June 24th 1864

Dear Kill,

Your last favor of the 17th I have the good fortune to be alive to acknowledge. By the same mail I also received the boots, I have not had time to try them, and scarce to say I am much obliged to you for sending them. About every man in this army has his hands full of business, and too few hours in the day to do it in. We are now pretty well below the city of Petersburg with our left resting on the Weldon R. R. which is said to be in part destroyed by our forces. If Bobby Lee dont "pull up the pants on us" and drive us in into the "single corner" we are all right, but although I have all confidence in Genl Grant, yet if he keeps at the game of knocking against the Rebel earthworks, he will soon have nary army to enter Richmond in triumph. Yet it will never do to give up the ship and I dont want you to think I am in a desponding mood, or that the army are at all demoralized neither unequal to meeting the Rebs in a fair field. I expect we will make another flank move to-night either back towards city-point or further into the "sunny-south". And sunny indeed it is, not a drop of rain in the past month, and oh! so hot, in the middle of the day.

Lt. Kincaids commission will scarce get him into Co F, and I am glad it will not. Lt. Bramhall is back to the Regt he says not a word about being beaten by K--. I am not sorry for that either. In fact I think the Pro-Mar. Dept is about as independent as any in the Army, so I dont care much for any of them or their little quarrels.

How comes on the "son"? Who you going to vote for for President? What is going on for July 4th in Troy? I wish I had been at your house at your little re-union. If I could only get a slight wound I might be home by the 4th but no such good (or evil) fortune for me.

Remember me kindly to all your family and to all of my friends even "Wm B. Kussed". Love to Em and all over home, as ever

Waters

P. S. Have you gotten the Pictures yet? I sent six, do with them as you think proper. Be carefull how you tell any stories about me, for you can not know how much trouble they may give me, and may ---- well all right.

W

To A. J. Rousseau Esq.

West Troy, N. Y.

HdQRS. 3d Div 2d Corps  
Near Petersburg Va.  
June 29, 1864

Friend Maggie,

Yours of the 20th inst. containing "sea breezes" from the Hudson, was received some days since. I should have written in reply sooner but that I could not very well direct to you at New York City so as to ensure a letter's reaching you. And although you say nothing about how long you are to honor the "Empire City" by your presence, I judge that this will reach you soon after your return home. As I can not wish that you may have a pleasant journey, I can only hope you did have. I am sure you would think me ill mannered should I say I would not like to have had the pleasure of taking tea with you on the River, and I am just as sure I should agree with you in your opinion. I think it would be "nice" indeed.

There being a slight difference of opinion in regard to "poor property" and "unfortunate being", it would be ungentlemanly in me to discuss it, so I wont.

I am glad to hear the wedding is safely over, and the happy couple fairly launched on the "sea of life". I trust your forbodings of "all her trouble to come" will never be realized by her. Is it not strange that you think Emma such a model young lady and I think just the opposite, perhaps it is because I formed my opinion years ago when I was not old enough to judge between right and wrong. She must have changed wonderfully in the six or seven years that elapsed from the time I knew her untill I met her at your house, but I must say the old prejudice still remained. Yet I am willing to take your opinion for what she is, not was. If You write her as you undoubtedly will give her my kindest wishes for her happiness, and hopes that the junior Gubbins wont be cross or have big walking apparatus, but I fear they will.

More excuses, and then to speak in the same sentence of letting the "motion of the boat shake hands with you". Why Maggie, how could you be so imprudent. You must not - I wont say that.

I can imagine the delighted expression of your Mothers face when my friend Cotty called. Why will you insist on saying my friend. I honor Miss L -- for her summary treatment of her delinquent swain. Were I her I would let him go, faster than ever his dad's horses did.

I do not hear a word from Robt in an age so it seems to me, he is not at all like his sister, I wish he was more so.

As usual I am on the last page and not a word of news.

First comes the biggest man in this army "in my opinion" that is myself - I am well, never better.

I forget from where I last wrote you, but we are now on the south east side of Petersburg Va. near the Petersburg & Weldon R. R. have had terrible hot weather, fighting daily and loss of life to eclipse hundreds of "Berkshires". We are constantly contending against the Rebbs



behind their earthworks (built some of them a year) and you can scarce imagine the amount of fighting and loss of Life & Limb required to drive them out, and then another line of works, and more charging in line of battle to take them.

We must have lost more men on this side of the James River than the Rebbs have, and I know I have seen sights I would scarce have believed, to hear from any one.

My Regt have been fortunate lately, and although they keep steadily loosing some men, yet they meet with nothing like the Wilderness fighting, and I hope they wont.

I have been relieved from duty as Provost Marshall, and am A. D. C. to the General. I expect to be Pro. Mar. again in about a month, when some of the staff now away wounded are expected to return. It makes but little differance for I had about as much staff duty to do as Pro. Mar. as I do now, and expect to have it to do again.

That was a good joke on Mr. R---N was it not, telling you the news!

Give my kind regards to your Father, Mother, Sate and family and all, and don't forget, to mention in your prayers,

Your friend

Waters

Miss Maggie Getty  
West Troy, N. Y.

HDQRS. 3rd Div. 2nd Corps.  
Near Petersburg, Va.  
June 29th, 1864

Dear Cousin Libbie;

I can not exactly answer your last because I cannot find the letter itself.

We are on the South East side of Petersburg, Va., on the P---& Weldon R. R. No fighting for the past four days in our immediate front, so we have had quite a rest. Our lines are so that we can get into a little fight at a moments notice, both lines watching the other all the while. There is continued shelling of the city-on our right and the 6th Corps on our left are continually fighting over the possession of the Rail Road.

Our men were pretty well worn out, with fighting & marching in the broiling sun and building breastworks nights. But I suppose after Muster Day (tomorrow) we shall try and give the Rebs a thrashing.

The time of service of many of the three year regiments are daily expiring, but there have been so many changes in the organizations, that there are comparatively few men to go out, and government keep just such officers as the Corps commander chooses to retain with the men who remain. This makes quite a disapointment to some officers who have calculated on going home. I dont know how it will be next fall but I am coming home if possible to do so honorably.

I dont know how it is about my owing Mary a letter, It is possible but I have no remembrance of receiving one from her about the time she says, or since I have written her. I do owe Eph one ever since just before we left Brandy Station. I mean to answer his, and will write to her soon.

What is going on in Troy for "Fourth of July"? As far as "fire works" go, we have been celebrating it for near two months.

I have been relieved from duty as Provost Marshall to be A.D.C. to General Birney, and shall probably do that duty for about a month and then go back to Pro. Mar. again, that is, if those of the Staff now away wounded return by that time. It dont make much difference as I had about as much Staff duty to do as Pro. Mar. as I do now as Aide.

I shall send by Mr. L. Barber, Chaplain of the 2nd U. S. Sharpshooters, tomorrow morning, a pair of genuine Reb Spurs which I took from a Johnny myself, and have worn over a month myself. Chaplain Barber is the celebrated Fighting Dominee of the A of P. He was wounded at Mine-Run last November. He returned to the army about three weeks ago but has to have an operation performed on his limb, and so goes north. He has been on our Staff since his return. He will probably call and leave the spurs at the house, and you will find him a splendid man and a good friend of mine. He has probably killed more Rebs during this war than any other man in this army, and is a good man too. You will like him if he has time to make you a call of any length, as I hope he will.

Love to Uncle, Aunt Abbie, Delight & the girls, Em & Kill and all, and believe me as ever,

Your Aff. Cousin  
Waters

PS Dominee B's wife is a Union Village lady. W.