

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

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. V.
Near Gettysburg P.a.
July 5th 1863

Dear Uncle,

Your kind and welcome letter, was received at Westminster M.d. I am glad to learn that your health is so good as to enable you to attend to business as I know you are apt to do when well. With you I trust to return safe from this war and that too the same as I left home, and rest assured should any of your family ever stand in need of a friend, my life will be all to short to repay the debt of gratitude I owe to you, who have ever been a more than Father to me.

We have had an awful fight here, but thank the Lord, our Army has given the Rebels an ever-lasting thrashing. The heaviest fighting was yesterday, and to-day they are in full retreat, and our army entire is after them. This is the first time since the organization of the army of the Potomac that the rebels have met our men in open field, fight, and I dont believe they would this time but that (as the prisoners say) their officers told them they were to fight the militia, but they found to their cost that the old army of the Potomac was around. We must have taken about 8,000 prisoners, the loss in killed and wounded on both sides must be 25,000, and some say the rebels alone have lost that number. Genl Lee tried to come the flag of truce game on Genl Meade, but it failed to work. Genl Meade sent back word that he would bury their dead for them.

We are encamped about 1/2 a mile from Gettys-burg, right on the Battlefield which is very large. I have seen but very little of it, as we have been momentarily under orders to be ready to move. We expect to go to Emmettsburg in the morning. About a week ago our 2nd Lt was detailed to take charge of a squad of men to guard a valuable train of Hospital stores (from Washington) just arrived, they were camped near us yeaterday but moved this morning, and it is reported that two of his men were killed by a shell, yesterday, but as his train is moved we know nothing for certain whether he is hurt or not. I dont know whether the first battle of Fredricksburg, or this was the most severe, but it does seem as if this beat anything I ever heard before. The citizens are doing all they can for the wounded, every barn, house, and tent is a hospital, and the smell which arises from the battlefield is sickening and intense.

I wrote that I had got John back again. I expect to have him restored to duty without trial, but the order is not yet issued as there has been something else to attend to at Hdqrs for the past five days. Quite a number of our Hdqrs officers are killed and wounded. One of them Genl Warren was wounded right in camp by the bursting of a shell, a piece of which struck him in the throat. Take it altogether we have had very lively times for a few days.

Enclosed I send a photograph to Lib, will write to her or Aunt Hannah as soon as we get encamped wherever we are going. Dont be at all alarmed about me, as I do not mean to get killed.

W --

Letter of July 5th 1863

We left four companies of our Regt at Westminister M.d. doing Provost duty Lt Col Butler was Provost Marshall so there are but six companies of us here. Capt Barnes is in command of this Battalion. We expect the other four cos. to join us at Emmettsburg M.d.

I have been just as well as possible to be, during all these marches, which have been unusually severe, not even have I been foot sore, and we are so toughened to it, that we can march twenty odd miles with ease any day. We started from Westminister in the rain about 4 o.c. (of the day we came) intending to march all night, but the roads were so blocked up we only march to ten o.c. and then lay down in the rain slept some till daylight and then marched on here, 25 miles, I dont see why we went to that place any way, as we were most here once before, and the Genl staid here then.

Trusting this war will soon end favorably to the Union, and that I may return in safety and in honor, I remain with much love to Aunt Hannah and all.

Your Aff. Nephew

Waters

Camp of 93rd N. Y. Vols.
Near Boonsboro M.d.
July 14th 1863

Dear Cousin Libbie,

The morning after I received yours of the 3rd inst, I was just beginning a letter in answer, when I happened to think of Ems which I received at Gettysburg. And so thought I must answer here first or there would be a row certain.

Hdqrs proper are about four miles from here, but the trains and other property are still here and the 8th Infantry and the 93rd are still encamped near South mountain pass. We broke up camp and expected to move when the General and staff did, but the train was ordered to stay behind and we with it. We have also been guarding the pass in the mountain and every night have had to do picket duty, for fear of a raid, as a very small force could hold the place if once in possession, and it is by it that all the supplies for our army have to come. General Meade thinks it so important that he yesterday sent back two more regiments of Infantry, and one battery of artillery, which will undoubtedly relieve us from that duty, and as soon as part of the train (sent back for forage) comes up, we expect to go on to the front. The 8th Infantry guard house is full of Grey-backs all the time, I dont know as you would consider it a "guard house" for it is nothing more or less than a big open field and they are turned in like sheep and the guard is around the outside, there are continually from one to five hundred of them in there, and a dirtier site you could not imagine. Still it is better living than they are used to, for they draw full rations of Uncle Sams pork, sugar, coffee, and hard tack, and although they sleep without any protection in the shape of ten or blanket, they dont seem to mind it at all. It does seem strange how much a soldier can stand in the shape of fatigue and exposure.

Staying here for a few days has given us a chance to draw clothing for the men which they needed very much, so do I need some but I dont see as I shall get a chance to get to Washington or any where else to buy them.

You ask how the Army like General Meade, all I can say is, he has their entire confidence as to his ability to command them and under such a leader the Army of the Potomac will fight every time they are told to. But they are past Idolizing their generals.

I am glad you like the Album, I thought it would be very appropriate and as acceptable as any other I could think of, in the shape of a present.

These mountains are fairly covered with Black berries and black Raspberries, and the men bring in quantities of them, and we have from six quarts to a half bushel, standing in the tent all the time, I never saw them more plenty or finer, consequently we are just growing fat on berries and milk, we can get plenty of chickens and eggs, and such things at a fair price so we shall not starve.

We have been, and are daily and hourly expecting a big fight to come off, but since writing to Em there has been no very large engagement near here. Everything seems to be busy with preparation on our side, for a big one when it does come. We have been receiving reinforcements, and there is no doubt our army will be again succesfull. We have of course a great many camp stories about Lees army being surrounded and all that but I guess they will fight yet, or else get away over the Potomac (the most likely of the two).

Letter of July 14th 1863

Col Crocker is still absent sick and we dont know when he will be back, but are very anxious of course, great loss of sleep in the consequence occurs, in a hem.

I received another from Carrie the same day I did your last, and shall answer it next.

Remember me to Mr. Robertson and wife and to Mr Kerr and Jas Knowlson and family and all the Park Church folks young and old.

With Love to all Uncle Aunt Abbie, Delight the children, to Em & Kill, and to all absent members and friends of the family when you write. I remain as ever.

Your aff. Cousin

Waters

To Cousin Libbie

Camp of 93rd N. Y. V.
Near Lorettsville, Va.
Sunday July 19th 1863

Dear Cousin Abbie,

Again we find ourselves on the "sacred soil". And our army in full chase after the F. F. V.s. As it is Sunday I dont think Hdqrs will move today. It is thought here that Genl Meade will intercept the Rebels at Gordonsville and perhaps have a small fight by way of variety. There was a story here about Genl Halleck being to blame about the Rebels getting across the river, but I guess there is no truth in that. Neither does any one blame Genl Meade.

The 93rd came nearer than you think for to getting into the fight, the 8th Infty and ourselves were ordered forward, by Genl Butterfield (Chief of Staff) before he was himself wounded and the 8th had already struck camp, but Genl Patrick would not let us go, and the order was countermanded. It was not a very safe place most any-where around the Gettysburg battlefield, a shell went through the house where Genl Meade was, and you can see by number of Hdqrs officers wounded that they ment to do or die. Genl Butterfield, Genl Warren, Lt Col Dickenson & Capt Dahlgren of the personal staff were wounded.

The same day we got the news of the riot in N. Y. the 8th Infty were ordered to that place, and we had to relieve them and have since been doing their duty. I dont think it will be safe for the rioters to come in contact with them for they are a fine regiment, and will do their duty. I think was a wise plan sending regular troops to enforce the draft, for they would have fewer friends. Dont you think I saw the body of Major Cromwell (Annie Bs husband) and never thought of him or did not know it, untill I saw it in the Troy papers. Col Willards body was laying there, in the same house, he was a splendid officer, but he never was liked when at Hdqrs last summer. When you any of you write tell me all who is drafted in Troy. I wish that it was possible to draft Gov Seymour, and he could not get rid of coming. Capt Barnes has a brother drafted, and he and some others are going to try through the influence of their congressman to get assigned to our company, I hope wont succede as Family is a bad thing in military.

There has been a new Robertson a brother of Domine R.-- in camp for the past few days he has a son in Co. I - orders have just come to move, so I must close, dont know far we are going but in the direction of Warrenton, probably as far as Rectertown.

With love to all the family and wishing to be remembered to all friends, I remain with much love.

Affectionately

Your cousin

Waters

Camp of 93rd N. Y. Vols.
Near Warrenton V.a.
July 27th 1863

Dear Uncle

We are still here, and as the Railroad is in running order, we are able again to hear the news and get a mail. I do not know how long we shall remain, or where we shall go when we do leave. Our first mail for a week received to-day brought me one from Libbie and another from Em, and lots of News-papers. We heard of the "Troy Riot" by way of the Philadelphia papers just before we left Maryland.

Col Crocker returned to us night before last, he spoke of seeing you, on the cars coming down from Cambridge. He started back to New York to-day and Capts Swain & Wilson with him and six men, they go to bring on the quota of "drafted men" assigned to the 93rd. He knew that Capt Barnes had been very anxious to go home lately and so asked him if he did not want to go, but the Capt thought he would not have time enough at home, and he might get a chance by-and-by. When he told me, I asked him why he did not speak a word for me, he said he would and went back to see the Colonel, and he said if he had spoke of it when he was talking to him before, that I might just as well have gone. I should have liked to come just now very much, but I guess it is all right and it might prevent me from coming home next winter when I could make a longer say, and I do not apprehend it will be very pleasant bringing down a lot of conscripts, and they may not get home at all, still I think I would run the chance, for a few days in Troy.

I had a letter about two weeks ago from William he is still in Alexandria detailed in the Hospital his health was pretty good but he is troubled with large veins in his legs, which would unfit him for marching. I also had a letter from Uncle Dan Braman, they are all well up to Westport, and the draft has gone quietly on up there. Our 2nd Lieut Jo Little has been promoted to 1st Lt, and our orderly to 2nd Lt of our Co, Jo is put in Co A, and will be a good one any where. The young man (Fred Myer) who was up to Troy is to be our orderly Sergeant, and I expect Captain Barnes will be promoted to Major soon, which will give me chance. I dont believe there is or has been a regiment in the field, for the time we have, with so few promotions. All owing I suppose to our being of so peacable a disposition, and what promotions have been made have been so there was no chance for me, and even wronging some who out-ranked me, but John S. does those things about as he pleases.

I was some what anxious to hear all the news about the riot in Troy to see if any of my friends suffered from it. If I had known of their sacking M. I. Townsends House, I should have been more anxious.

There has been no alteration in our position here and I do not think that the filling up of the regiment will cause any change to be made. I dont much think I shall get a chance to come home again before Winter but I mean to then if I live. I trust you have ere this recovered from the effects of the Riot, for I know you must have worried terribly about the folks, and I hope such an occurance, so disgracefull to our city and country will not again happen.

Letter of July 27th 1863

Remember me to Mr. Kerr & Mrs. Kerr, Mr & Mrs Jas Knowlson & family,
Mr & Mrs Robertson and all our friends, and with love to all Aunt, Abbie, Lib,
Em, Kill, Delight, Eph, the children and all, I remain, as ever,

Your Affectionate Nephew

Waters W. Braman

Camp of 93rd N. Y. Vols.
Near Warrenton, V.a.
July 31st 1863

Dear Cousin Lib,

Your last, and the still later addition of part of Uncles letter are received, I am pained to hear of Uncles indisposition, but hope it is only a temporary attack, from which he is ere this entirely recovered. Ems letter came on the same day with yours, but as yours was first written, it is first answered. We are still in the same camp, from which I wrote to Uncle Waters, but the Army appears to be on the move, and the talk is that we move to-morrow, rumor says, towards Fredricksburg, Another story is that we (the Army) is to hold the line of the line of the Rappahannock, untill the drafted men, can be got here and distributed, there is also some talk, of troops coming here from the west. They are all camp stories however, and not to be relied on..

Just the few days we have been in this camp, has made it look pretty comfortable, full as much so as our camp at Falmouth, this is the first letter that has been written by me, on a table since the beginning of this campaign.

Was it not a queer idea of Col Crocker coming back, and the very next day detailing himself to go north after drafted men, when he had been away nearly a month and a half. I wanted to come very much, and he said that if I had spoken in time I might just as well go as not. (I dont believe him though).

There has been a regiment of Infantry here, ever since the 8th Infty went away, it is the 130 N. Y. V. they were ordered here to take the place of the 8th while they were gone to New York, but Genl Patrick would not receive them, and they are here yet and two of our cos. are still doing the duty. The boys here started the story two or three times that the 130th was to relieve us, but I dont believe it, and I know that their Col is in Washington trying to get the Regiment changed to cavalry, and will undoubtedly succede.

Orders have just come for us to have sixty rounds of cartridges, that means business, the same orders are received every time there is fun ahead. But I am sorry to say, that all extra cartridges issued to the 93rd have to be thrown away (instead of at the enemy) after the men have carried them in their pockets for a few weeks. All there is about it, they mean, a move, and we are to be prepared for any emergency. I hope the ammunition wont be spoilt by cary-ing this time. We have some in the boxes that I would like to see out too.

I hope you will have a pleasant visit up to Greenwich, and you probably will, if you are well yourself. Remember me to all my friends up in the country. Also to Millie H. when you write. With love to all the family in Troy and elsewhere. I remain with love to yourself.

Affectionately

Your coz.

To Lib

Waters

Enclosed I send Photographs of Capts. Johnson & Smith of our Regt, the unfinished one you can paste on a card yourself. W.

Camp of 93rd N. Y. V.
Near Germantown V.a.
Augt 4th 1863

Dear Em,

Yours of the 20th ult & also the papers containing the full accounts of the siege and surrender of the "Times" office, together with other gallant achievements of the non conscripts, were received some time since. And if any body had done any thing that would interest you I should have answered yours ere this.

At the present the Hdqrs remain this side of the Rappahannock, waiting for the Rail-Road bridge (across that stream) to be completed. We have a very nice place for our camp, but there is no water fit to drink within miles of us, and what we do get is by digging and setting an empty cracker box in the ground and waiting for it to fill up. You may imagine this not a very fertile part of Virginia, and you would think about right, this whole township is owned by a widow, and her house and one other comprise the villiage. All this cannot interest you however, neither does it any of us enough to get us out of our tents this hot weather.

The only fighting lately, was on Saturday, just beyond the river. We were about as near as we are likely to get this season, say nine miles. One of the men who enlisted out of our Co. last fall was killed and another wounded, bad investment for the one who got killed. I am in hopes though that the 93rd will get a chance one of these days, to show their metal, they would not show their back to the enemy either.

You dont know how much I wanted to come home on the detail that went after "drafted men", but it was not to be, and I am just as well off, for now I can look forward to a longer visit home next winter, and going just now might interfere very seriously in getting a leave then, unless I got a sick leave, and I never could manage to grunt enough for that, nor do I want to.

You and Lib too, seem to know a good deal about that girl in New York. Lib has mentioned it once or twice, but I thought the thing would die away, and so I made no reply. But I tell you once for all, and for the information of Miss Ginnie* if you like, that there is no young lady in New York that I more admire or that I hold in any higher esteem that Miss Ginnie herself, does that satisfy you?

Is Kill drafted? Why dont some of you write who is drafted in and about Troy? or has mobocracy conquered, and the draft fell through. I wish there was no exemption from it, the bank and dry goods clerks, are no better to come than any of us that are here, send them along, there will be enough for all to do for the next year, and if something extra-ordinary is not done, it will be years.

Give my love to all the folks over home. Remember me to the fair young ladies next door, and to Miss Ginnie the fairest. With "Forty rounds" of love for yourself & Kill I remain,

Affectionately, Your coz.

Waters

(* Miss Getty? J.L.B.)

Camp of 93rd N. Y. V.
Near Germantown V.a.
Aug 6th 1863

My Dear Uncle,

Your last I believe I acknowledged through one to Libbie, since I wrote her we have been at this one camp, just doing our regular duty, and no more. The only occurrence of any moment to the 93rd was, the arrival of the Paymaster, last evening, and the receipt this morning of our Pay for the months of May & June.

Enclosed you will please find a check on the Assistant Treasurer at New York, payable to your order, for One hundred & Seventy Dollars \$170.00 of which \$150.00 is for my account and the remaining \$20 for McDonnell, with this exception, I wish you or one of the girls would buy two woolen shirts, good and fine, not very heavy (for summer wear), pay for them and what it costs to send them by mail out of the \$20 and credit the balance to Peter, send them to me. The check is dated July 31st because the date was filled in at Washington, but it is all right.

Col Crocker has not yet returned, but we are daily expecting him. All the drafted men who have arrived at the Army, have given the officers in charge of them a great deal of trouble. They will soon get broke in though, after they get fairly settled, as the old troops will take pleasure in making them "toe the scratch".

I dont know but I am just as well satisfied, in not coming home on the detail, as it would probably put a stop on, my coming on a leave, by & by. Capt Barnes has not yet succeeded in getting home, nor do I believe he will, untill he sees what the chance is for promotion of the Major, fails to connect. Our 2nd Lt has been promoted to 1st Lieut of Co "A" and our Orderly sergeant to 2nd Lieut of our Company.

With love to all the family, and kind remembrances for all friends, I remain as ever,

Your Aff. Nephew

Waters W. Braman

In haste.

P. S. Will write to Abbie & to Aunt H -- in a few days.

Camp of 93rd N. Y. Vols.
Near Germantown Va.
Aug 11th 1863

Dear Cousin Abbie,

This is rather a late day to answer your letter, but the fact is, there is nothing of interest transpiring in camp, but on the contrary we are having the very dullest time imaginable, nothing to do, and no signs of doing anything.

I wrote Uncle Waters the day the regiment was paid off, enclosing a "Check" and if it has not arrived, please write immediatly, but I presume it has, all right.

We have a new era in the 93rd. We had preaching last Sunday and are to have it henceforth, the way of it is this. The Christian Commission are to go with Hdquarters in future, and arangements have been made to have regular services on Sunday. The Commission have prayer meetings two or three times a week at their tent, last evening Capt Barnes invited them over and had a meeting at our tent, and proposes to have another to-morrow night. There are two ministers in charge of the Commission, both of them Presbyterians, they give books and papers to the soldiers and have wines jellies etc. for the sick, and wounded.

Lt Little has just joined us from Gettysburg, but we have lost him, by promotion to 1st Lt of Co. A. I am right sorry he is going too, for he is the whitest of the whole family.

There is no signs of a move, and some of the troops are being sent to Charleston, they are a part of the Eleventh Corps.

The health of the regiment is tip-top, and my own in particular, for which I am very thankful. We have pretty warm weather but as long as we are not on the march I guess we can stand it.

That is our old _____, who was dismissed the service. He was a splendid officer but perhaps none of the most loyal, no one here regrets it at all.

With love to all, and kind remembrances to all friends, I remain as ever, with love.

Your aff. Cousin

Waters

Camp of 93rd N. Y. Vols.
Near Germantown V.a.
Augt 20th 1863

Dear Lib,

I have only the same old story to tell. Your last from Greenwich was received and read with great pleasure. Also Uncle Waters last. We are still in the same camp, have two or three times had orders to be ready to move, but have not yet done so. Our movements depend entirely on the enemys, as we have not force enough to attack with. There have a great many men gone from this Army to Charleston. If we had moved at all it would have been back towards Alexandria, probably as far as Fairfax Court House.

We have had preaching the two last Sundays, and are to have it regularly in future, as long as the Christian Commision continue with us. They also have prayer meetings every night. About three times a week it has been at our tent, as Capt Barnes takes a leading part in the movement, during the day the Commision visit the sick, distribute books and papers etc.

We have not heard a word direct from Col Crocker since he went away so we do not know when he is coming back, or what chance there is for drafted men. I wish they would come along for then we would have men enough to muster in the lately appointed 2d Lieuts but as the orders are now we cannot get ours mustered, although he holds the appointment from the governor of the state, and that puts back two or three other promotions in the company that I am anxious to see made.

I wrote in Mary's letter desiring you to get me a dozen more Photographs, will you do so, as I have promised quite a number of the officers who have given me theirs. I wish you would also get me about six pairs of cotton socks and the same of white handkerchiefs, and send them by mail, and if you would have them marked "W.W.B." I should be very much obliged.

The papers arrive regularly, and are gratefully received just now that it is so dull in camp. You remember _____ who used to live next door the oldest of the two boys, he was a captain in the Ira Harris Cavalry, but has been dismissed the service, for being absent from his regiment. He has been around our camp with _____ for the last two or three weeks.

Give my respects to Miss Nellie H --. Remember me to all the young folks of my acquaintance to Mr. Robertson & wife, Mr & Mrs Kerr, Mr & Mrs James Knowlson & family, and to the friends in general, and with love to Uncle, Aunt, Abbie, Delight, the children, Em & Kill and all the Washington Countians when you write I remain as ever.

Your Aff. Cousin

Waters

Camp of 93rd N. Y. Vols.
Aug 29th 1863

Dear Cousin Abbie,

Yesterday the bundle of shirts, the handkerchiefs and socks, also Libbies letter containing the photographs arrived all safe, and all right, the shirts were just what was wanted, and the idea of having them marked with his name pleased McD--- mightily. Libbie wished me to write immediately to her on the receipt of the things but I could not without making a bridge of your nose, so I write to you first.

We are still in the same camp. Yesterday Genl Meade was the recipient of a splendid present in the shape of a magnificent sword. The presentation was at the Hdqrs 3d division of the 5th Corps (Genl Ms. old division) pretty near all of us went up to the row, which was a very fine affair. The sword was a straight one and inlaid blade with two scabbards both gold mounted, the "dress scabbard" was heavily chased and the mountings set with diamonds, and G. G. M. also in diamonds, the hilt set with rubies. A sash, belt and pair of gold spurs also went with it. The whole affair passed off very pleasantly, and after the speeches, we had a splendid supper, and whiskey by the pail full and champaigne by the dozen. President L -- was expected down but none of the heads of department came. Gov. Curtin of Pennsylvania was there, and a great many other citizens.

On Wednesday evening Lt Hubbell and myself was out in the country about two miles, and after we got out there, he told me about five guerillas being out there that afternoon, I said if he had said so before we left camp I would not have come, but would not go back then, after we had spent the evening very pleasantly where we went to call (there was two good looking girls there) we started back and when we got about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile on our return some one from the fence on the side of the road told us to halt; but we halted not, nor had we a chance (before they fired 5 or 6 shots at us) as we were galloping the horses pretty fast then. After such a reception we made up our minds they were guerillas, and mean to stop we did not, Lt H asked what we should do I told him to keep going, for I would sooner have a hole in my coat than go to Richmond, and we did go - but unfortunately, or I guess fortunately my horse stumbled and fell, and we rolled over two or three times and the horse came up on top and me under, and before I could get up, I was surrounded by about a dozen chaps with revolvers, and not in very polite terms told to give myself up. I saw they were our men and told them they had better get the horse off of me first, and they did so and discovered who I was. Some of them knew me at once, and so after finding I had no bones broken started for camp. When I got there met my company going out to look for me as Lt H had reported me killed, wounded and missing, but they were right glad to find I was neither, except a game leg for about 24 hours. The facts were these, a man of the 2nd P.a. cavalry, guard at a house, was chased away by 5 guerrillas in the afternoon, and the men who fired at us were looking out for and supposed we belonged to the same party, they were there without the least orders from Hdqrs to which they are attached, and we knowing there could be no pickets there, believed them to be guerrillas, and they did us and thought they had one sure when they gobbled me. They fired about 20 shots at us, and if my horse had not fell would probably have hit one of us or both, when we got by them and they could shoot from behind, but the chances of getting hit were very small while we were going across their line of fire. So ends that affair, I dont think we go out into the country very often now. It was a miracle one of us did

Letter of Aug 29th 1863

not get hit as it was, some of the balls came very close judging by the noise they made. There are some deserters being shot to day in the 5th Corps. Cap B - has gone up to see them shot, that will be the fate of all skedadlers hereafter.

With love to all Uncle, Aunt, Lib Em Kill, and all absent ones when you write. I remain with love to yourself and respects to all friends.

Your Aff. Cousin

Waters

P. S.

Tell Lib that Ems letter is ahead of hers on the list, but I will try and answer them both to morrow and next day. You need not tell my guerrilla story to every one.

W

Camp of 93rd N. Y. Vols.
Aug 31st 1863

My Dear Em,

Your good long letter from Wabash was duly and thankfully received, not only as it conveyed the assurance of your safe arrival out there, and also because I was and always am most glad to hear from you. I am right glad Eph is doing so well out west, and hope he will continue to prosper.

We have not moved camp at all since I last wrote home, neither is there immediate prospect of doing so. Day before yesterday there were 5 deserters shot over to the 5th Corps, they were all of them substitutes for drafted men, and all foreigners, two of them were protestants two catholics and one jew. Capt. Barnes went up but I did not. That is the way we mean to serve them all in future who cant see the fight.

I am again acting Q. M. as our Quartermaster has gone home on a 20 day leave with the fever, and will probably get his leave extended. A few days ago we had some photographs of the company taken, they are gone to Washington to be printed, they are very good as a general thing, I took very poorly though. I am going to send two of them home to keep, if I ever get out of this scrape. Two or three more of our officers have a touch of the fever, but I am as well as ever and hope to continue so.

We did not have our usual services here yesterday, but the Commission held forth up to the 2nd P.a. Cavalry, but I did not go.

I believe I forgot to thank the girls over home for getting the dry-goods & pictures, but I do now and they know I ment it.

We have as yet seen nothing of our drafted men, and scarcely heard of the detail, Col C -- is reported dangerously ill in New York City, and the rest are on Rikers Island, enjoying themselves with poor fare and brackish water. We have had very pleasant weather lately and quite cool nights, were mustered today for two months pay, expect to get it in about three weeks.

Give my love to all over the river, Uncle, Aunt, Lib, Abbie & all remember me to all of Kill's family over to 4th St. and to all my acquaintances next door and elsewhere. And with the kindest wishes for Kill and yourself, I remain as ever.

Your Aff. Cousin

Waters

To Em

Camp of 93rd N. Y. Vols.
Near Germantown V.a.
Sept 4th 1863

Dear Libbie,

Yours of the 25th and the two bundles of dry goods came to-gether and were all of them satisfactory and I am much obliged to you all. I am glad you gave one to May-Jane or if you have not sent it yet, you may, with my compliments. Enclosed I send two more Photographs of officers of the 93rd.

I hope you will conclude to go to Canada, for it will be such a nice chance to go and have a good visit and be among friends. I recd Uncle Waters & Ems letter yesterday. I have not as yet made any move about the signal corps but if I do, will certainly write.

Capt Plum who was recently dismissed the service for absence from his command has been reinstated. I think some of going to Washington in a few days to look after some business of the Q. M. Department, but shall not stay over a day or so. There is not the slightest sign of a move of the Army, although there is Cavalry and Artillery moving more or less all the time. Quite a number of our officers have got a slight touch of the Fever, but some how or other I escape all the ills that others seem to inherit, and since I did not get killed the night the Pennsylvania Cavalry thought we were guerrillas, I think I shall stand it through all the rest. I have not been a day away from the Company since I came from home, and have been going to Washington about a dozen times.

Remember me to all the Park Church friends, and others, give my love to eph & Delight & the children when you write and always remember me to any of the Washington County folks. And with love to all at home I remain with sincere regards for yourself.

Your Aff. Cousin

Waters

P. S. Have not heard a word from Carrie yet. I wonder if she will say she has written.

W --

Camp of 93rd N. Y. V.
Sep 7th 1863

My Dear Uncle,

In answer to your letter of the 30th which was thankfully received, I have but little news to write. I have been and now am acting quartermaster and have done nothing about the Signal Corps as yet. There is another project on foot, Maj Ludlow, one of the Genls aids, is to have command of a regiment of picked men from the drafted colored troops to form the 1st col cavalry, and designs having picked officers who understand the infantry drill perfectly. Col Britten recommended me to him, without my knowledge, or consent and wants me to see the Maj, and see what the prospect is. I dont like the idea very well myself, although I consider it perfectly honorable to command any troops in the service of the United States, (without regard to color) and the cavalry service would be far preferable to Infantry.

Yesterday I went over to the 2d corps to the 125th N. Y. and had a very pleasant call. I saw Lt Sheldon you remember who used to keep books in the M. & M. bank, he enquired after your health, as did also Col Crandell. We had church yesterday in the morning. About all the dignataries of Hdqrs were present.

I wish you would buy me two woolen shirts about the same quality as sent to McD - but more fancy if possible, such shirts as those you sent cost here about \$4.50, send them as soon as convenient by mail get them with the longest sleeve possible, and about 15 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches around the neck.

Enclosed I send Libbie another Photograph to keep for me, it is of a splend young fellow who came out as orderley sergeant now 1st Lt. I had a letter from Eph and also one from Mary day before yesterday. Eph seems to feel well, and I really hope his success will meet his most sanguine hopes.

I thank you for your good advice, and kind wishes for my future prosperity, and hope I shall ever prove myself worthy of them. With Love to all and kind remeberances to all my friends young and old, I remain as ever.

Gratefully

Your Aff Nephew

Waters W. Braman

What do you think of the dark complexioned cavalry, for I dont know but I may make up my mind to go in it.

Yours Truly

W --

Camp of 93rd N. Y. Vols.
Sep 10th 1863

Dear Em,

Again from "Camp near Germantown" I have the pleasure of answering your last favor. I hope Kill has not only recovered from his illness, but also from the burns on his hand, you did have a narrow escape surely. I would sooner been killed by the Sham Guerrillas, than had you burned to death in that or any other way, it would have been awful! It was lucky Kill was on hand, I fear you would have got burned some sure if he had not.

The papers containing the list of "drafted" arrived on time, and you cant imagine the pleasure it gives the soldiers to read the names of the ones they know, that have drawn a lucky ticket. I only wish the \$300.00 clause was stricken out of the conscription act, for we are getting but very few men from the draft. It cant be that the whole north is disloyal or cowards, but it does seem to me that there is a great many more exempt than there is fit subjects for it.

I had a letter from Mary W. in which she said they were going to housekeeping in Wabash as soon as the house Eph had hired could be papered & painted, I guess they dont like it pretty well out there, they are not at their grandpas now by a good sight, but I think from Ephs letter taht he has a prospect of doing well, and so they will have to be contented and I hope he will succede too. I answered his letter to-day.

There is nothing of interest transpiring in the Army of the Potomac. "Waiting for drafted men" is the story now, and I guess we will wait for some time to come, unless Genl Lee takes it into his secesh head to attack us.

We are all beginning to think of furloughs again, but the prospect is that "ten day leaves" will be the fashion, this fall and winter. I think I shall have a severe attack of "twenty days on the brain", when my turn comes, it will probably be two or three months from now though, ten days would be most to short a time to come home in especially if I should have to stay a day or so in New York City (to see Bob of course) but if I should happen to have to go over into "the land of steady habits and wooden nutmegs" viz Connecticut, I dont know what good ten days would be there.

I have not gone into the Signal Corps yet, for two reasons, the first is because I have not applied, and the second is I dont know as I shall apply, but if I do I will write, it is a splendid branch of the service and less dangerous, than being in even the 93rd regiment, of bloodless notoriety.

With love to all the family over the river, and kind remeberances to all friends, I am with the best wishes for the happiness of yourself and Kill.

Your Aff. cousin

Waters

Camp of 93rd N. Y. V.
Near Culpepper C. H. Va.
Sep 17th 1863

Dear Cousin Lib,

Your letter and also the papers containing the draft, arrived safely. You are doubtless aware of the move in this army, that began in a reconnoissance bids fair to result in a very lively campaign. HdQuarters moved to this place yesterday, and we have been ready all day to go on further and now expect to do so in the morning, there is more or less fighting in front all the time generally resulting in the Rebs falling back, and our forces advancing. This is an entirely new part of the country for us, and looks much better than any we have before visited.

Uncle Waters speaks in his last of your being in Montreal, how did you finally manage it? I hope you had a pleasant time up there. When you write tell me all about it, and how the "people" feel up there about the war?

We are daily expecting the return of our party which went north for conscripts, if they get any. There is no danger of getting guerrillad in this country for we cant ride 18 miles to see the very best of Virginia "Calico", and we have not got acquainted around here yet.

One day last week I sent two Photographs of the Company to Troy by mail if they arrive I would like to have them kept pretty nice. I forgot to write when I sent them, my own pictures are miserable but most of the Company are good. We have had some taken since of all the officers in a groupe and I think they will be splendid pictures, my own are much better than in the company ones. I will send a couple of them home when they come.

I have had a horse to ride on the last march and I must say I prefer it most decidedly to walking. We have good water where we are now and a nice pond to bathe in, the water was so poor at Germantown that a great many of the men were getting the fever and we had to send a good many off to Washington before we started, my own health was never better. Lt Fuller's (the Q. M.) time is up tomorrow but I expect he will get an extension of leave, probably for fifteen days more. I hope the Army will do its heaviest marching by that time, so I can ride, I could do it when on duty with the company, but would feel rather ashamed to let them march without being with them, and I believe I can do it too, as well as any of them, many a time have I carried a gun for one and another that did not feel well.

You better believe it is gay fun being on the road with the train, especially when the whole army is moving close to-gether, such jaming and crowding you never did see, some swearing too occasionally by way of variety, the sharpest man gets along the fastest. We go along with Hdqrs train so all we have to do is to keep our place and keep up. We got into camp last night about ten o'clock, about 9 o'clock I had a wheel come of one of my waggons, in just the worst possible place, and the wagon loaded with two tons of forage, did not we have a sweet old time getting the wheel on again, it occasioned some loud swearing just behind us, but we soon got fixed, and got out of the way soon after. We have got a tip-top good train all six mile teams and first rate drivers to them,

Letter of Sep 17 1863

and the ambulances too. I cant say I really like the Q. M. department though, if everything aint up to time the Q. M. catches rats. I never had any trouble in my differant experiences, but have seen a good deal of it though.

Give my love to all Uncle, Aunt, Em & Kill, and all the absent ones when the occasion offers, remember me to all my friends, my regards to the feminine portion, and with much love and eternal obligations to yourself, and all the family for their many acts of kindness, I remain as ever.

Your affectionate,

Cousin Waters

To Cousin Lib

Camp of 93rd. N. Y. Vols.
Near Culpepper C. H. Va.
Sept 21st 1863

Dear Uncle,

The present time finds us a little nearer Richmond than when I last wrote to you, but the prospect is about the same, in regard to staying some time in the present camp, as it was in the camp near Germantown, and a little more so if anything. The Rebels are in strong force behind strong earth-works just across the Rapiden and I doubt if Genl Meade has a sufficient force to drive them out, perhaps we may go down to Fredricksburg, but I very much doubt our wintering much nearer Richmond than that place.

Yours of the 10th inst came safely to hand, also Abbies and the next day the Shirts which are just the thing. I could not have suited myself better had I been there, I gave \$4.25 for some the Sutler brought down, which I thought very nice as indeed they were but cant begin with the ones from home, I should not have liked the gay colored ones Abbie wrote about, what I meant by "fancy" was something neat and tasty and they are just the thing. I have been offered six dollars for one of them but I would not take it, I am very much obliged to Abbie for her trouble and will never forget it, and the thousand other favors from Troy.

About the Colored Cavalry I have heard nothing since I wrote to you. The Regiment is to be raised in Genl Banks department, all picked men from fifteen regiments of Infantry, and Major Ludlow of the Staff has been offered the command and the selection of the officers, but he only accepted conditionally, and has not as yet heard anything from it. I do not think any more favorably of it than you do but the regiment would be a splendid regiment, and he has been promised by the War Department that every pains should be taken in uniforming and equipping them in gay style. Your notions of a proper grade of command, necessary to compensate one for such a service, are rather large, how many of the six hundred and over officers examined as candidates for commissions in the colored troops have got any such high positions? There has been passed the board and appointed 3 Colonels 5 Lieut Cols, & 8 Majors, about 30 Captains and about 150 Lieuts, the rest sent back to their old regiments, so you see that poor as the service is, how few have reached the top rounds of the ladder, and I know of plenty of field officers who now hold captains commissions in the U. S. Cold. Infantry. The Horse is all that takes my eye. About the danger, I think with you, it is slightly more so than the 93rd, but with you I think that if I intend staying in the service, I should take every opportunity for promotion, and to get that there must be some danger, and it is not likely to be met here so near the baggage trains, the snap of a drivers whip does not affect the nerves of Captains and Field Officers, enough to make a great many vacancies by resigning, and it certainly does not kill. Still I shall do nothing about the matter without thinking it over pretty thoroughly, and the probability now is that I shall never hear any more about it myself.

I dont know about our changing our sutler of for a new one, you know our old one was one of the Crockers, and being one of the family, did just as he pleased, came to the regiment when he pleased, (generally about pay day).

Letter of Sept 21st 1863

brought what he pleased, and charged ditto, all of which failed to give satisfaction to the regiment. Of course when the Col was here we could do nothing and so when we got him away, we advised him (the sutler) to sell out, or leave by being expelled, he chose the former, and now we have the best one in the army.

With Love to all the family at home or abroad, and kind remembrances to all friends, I am as ever.

Your Affectionate Nephew

Waters W. Braman.

Camp of 93rd N. Y. Vols.
Near Culpepper V.a.
Oct 2d 1863

Dear Cousin Em,

Your last letter I found awaiting my return from Washington. I left here on Friday morning in charge of a guard of 40 men and 119 rebellious prisoners, which I delivered safely in Washington the same noon, and staid there that day and the next, returning to camp Sunday morning. I had also to get goods, stored last spring, and bring them on to the regiment, so my time was pretty well taken up in that city. It was my first absence from the regiment since my return from home, and I should not have cared to go then, but for the demoralized condition of my wardrobe, and now I am rigged for any emergency. I suppose you have heard of the McClellan Testimonial. It was a paper circulated throughout this army for subscribers, the amount of which was limited to ten cents for every private, twenty five cents for every sergeant and one dollar for Lieuts, one & a half for Capts, three dollars for Major & Lt Col, five dollars for Cols, ten for one star and twenty for two stars. The papers were signed almost unanimously by this army, but the War Department put a stop to it, and are looking after the leading rascal who started the papers, they have even ordered Col Davis, Asst Inspector General of the Army, to report to Santa Fee, New Mexico, and reduced him to his old rank of Major in the regular Army, for being one of the leaders at Hdqrs, being one of the staff officers temporarily of the 93rd, it fell to me to circulate the papers in this regiment, which I did with the greatest pleasure, and succeeded beyond the most sanguine expectation. I shall send the papers home and keep them as soon as I get through refunding the money, and you can then see the meaning of it. It was not as some think at all political but merely a testimonial of the deep respect of the Army of the Potomac for a gallant soldier and their best friend.

I received Libbies last with the latest news in full from Her Majestys Dominions, this side of the Atlantic, and shall attemp to answer it soon.

Tell Uncle Waters that I received the offer from Mrss. W. W. & P. and the boots will be ordered in a few days probably tomorrow.

I expect Tom Fuller back tomorrow, which will relieve me from the arduous duties of Actg. R. Q. M. I think it is about my turn to be sick for twenty days.

There is less signs than ever of a move, since the sending off of the 11 & 12th corps to reinforce Rosekrans.

With love to all the Family and the kindest regards to all friends, I remain with love to yourself & Kill.

Your Aff. Cousin

Waters

To Cousin Em

Camp of 93rd N. Y. Vols.
Near Bolton Station V.a.
Octo. 12th 1863

Dear Cousins Abbie & Libbie,

Your letters I received at Culpepper, Libbies just after I had written to her, and I answer both together for the prospect is that we shall be on the move and I shall not get a chance to answer them separately ere I receive one from home, I have been trying to get a chance to write direct to Aunt H but there is always some-ones to answer, and that is the reason I have not. Yesterday the whole Army fell back to the line of the Rappahannock, Hdqrs of course, and we are now encamped about a mile on this side. The movement was not a retreat, but rather a strategic move, for our army have to-day advanced again and so far have whipped the enemy. The fighting was very heavy just at night and will undoubtedly be resumed in the morning. I think the move was to draw the enemy out of his strong entrenchments at the Rapidan and if possible beat him in an open field, I think also it is with a view to the Political effect on the coming elections in Pennsylvania, which effect would undoubtedly be great should we be successfull, as there is every reason to hope.

There is some talk of our regiment reinlisting in the Veteran Corps for three years more. If they do it will probably be done next month, and if so, I am going in for it. I think about two-thirds of the men would reinlist. Should we do so it would be on condition that we could go to the State of New York to recruit and reorganize, and that together with the bounty offered by the government would make it very fair for the men who do so reinlist.

I am well as ever in my life. Tom Fuller has returned and I am ex R. Q. M. was on guard last night for the first time in over two months, hard is it not? I have given up all idea of the Cold. cavalry. Enclosed I send Libbie three Photographs one of them not exactly a military one but I wish to preserve it never-the-less. It is the wife of Lt Cooper of the 10 N. J. V. Adjutant of the provost Guard in Washington, he always stays with me when he comes down to the Army, and I called on him last spring and the last time I was in Washington, his wife is a very lovely lady. I write all this explanation so you wont think it is any beaux of my own. I think I sent a picture of her husband home from Falmouth soon after my return from Troy.

There is no chance at Hdqrs, our Regiment still do the entire duty, and there is but little prospect of the 8th Infantry ever returning to us here. We have a new "Commandant of the port", it is Col Schriver you remember the Capt Schriver who used to live down on the Park - it is him, and a very nice man.

With love to Uncle, Aunt, Em, Kill, Carrie, Job, Lyd, Joe, and to Uncle William and Aunt Roby and to all the other members of the family, and kind remembrances to all friends, I remain as ever

Your aff coz.

Waters

To Cousins Abbie & Libbie

Shall send the Pictures of groups of officers in a day or two. W

Camp near Centreville Va.
Head-Quarters, Army of the Potomac
Com'd'ts Office,
Sunday Octo 18th 1863

Dear Aunt & Uncle,

Since I wrote to Lib & Abbie, we have been continually on the move, backwards, forwards, to the right, & to the left, & every way, but all the moves have amounted to but little every time our Army has gained a position in which Genl Meade was willing to fight, the Rebs did not want to & visa versa, whenever we have had a brush we have beaten them however. I was on duty the same day I wrote to Lib & Abbie, and the next morning was placed in charge of the detail for moving camp and after we had got started the main train was ordered to go one way, and eight wagons belonging to the Genl & Staff to go to the front, and I was ordered to go with them, and so have been on duty ever since. The regiment is down to Fairfax C. H. with the rest of the train, we have been in sight of all the skirmishing for the past few days and have constantly hoped to see a big battle. If Genl Lee had got here to Centreville ahead of us I dont know what would have been the result but as it is, I think Genl Meade is willing and anxious to fight here or anywhere between here and the Rapidan, today the Rebs are said to be in force on our right, and troops are moving accordingly but I dont think there will be any fight, and I should not be surprised if we were down to Culpepper or Falmouth in less than a week. The Army is in splendid spirits and anxious for a fight, I came away from the regiment so unexpectedly that I did not bring any thing to eat or a single blanket, but by the kindness of friends, I did not suffer. I had a letter from Em day before yesterday, and a whole batch of papers Troy, N. Y. and Harpers Weekly, by the same mail. I dont know when the regiment will rejoin us, certainly not till the train does, I guess this move has killed the Veteran Corps in the 93rd, I am sure I dont care which way it is, whether we serve our time out, or go in for three years more.

We have as yet seen nothing of the Colonel or our conscripts and begin to doubt our getting any. The news from the Pennsylvania & Ohio Elections gives general satisfaction in the Army.

With love to all, I remain as ever, your Aff Nephew

Waters

Camp of 93rd N. Y. V.
Near Groveton V.a.
Octo 19th 1863

Dear Coz Em,

Your last of the 11th inst found me on the way from, and I now write you on the way towards the enemy. We have today marched over and are tonight encamped on the Battle fields of Bull Run. Occasionally along the road we saw graves of soldiers with an arm or a foot sticking out, in some a head and in others where nearly whole skeletons were uncovered by the action of the elements, so slightly had they been covered with earth. Right near our camp is a house, near which one of our Lieuts was wounded and in which house he lay. And to-night just after our camp was pitched I met a Lieut who used to be on "Provost duty" at White house with me, (he is from the P.a. reserves) and was himself looking over the ground where their Regt fought and he was wounded in the last "Bull Run".

Our whole train is up with us again and of course the whole regiment is here too, I was right glad to rejoin the company again, and it seems almost like home to be back with the Captain. We expect to go to Warrenton V.a. tomorrow, and from thence depends on the movements, and convenience of the Johnny Rebs.

We are all rejoiced over the elections in Pennsylvania and Ohio, and now only want to hear from the Empire State to make the victory complete. What do you all think of the New Call of the President for three hundred thousand volunteers? We think it is a nice introduction to the next draft and just the thing, for although all our armies are in good conditions and spirits, and can whip a superior number of Rebels, in a fair field, it is certain that more men are going to be required, before this contract is finished.

I wrote to Mary the same day I received yours, and the fact is I was negligent in not answering hers, but not intentionally so.

I received Libbies tonight and will answer soon, so as to keep you all posted as to our whereabouts, and safety. We did have a lively time coming here, and if Lee had got around and ahead of us there would have been a terrible fight certain, before we lost our trains, as it was, the old "second Corps" taught them a lesson (they wont forget) at Bristow station, and they did not like to try our position at Centreville, and so we are here, and "shall see what we shall see". The Army are all confident in Genl Meade, and his ability to get them out of any scrape they get into. Luckily we have had fine warm weather, although considerable rain.

You make out West Troy to be quite a respectable place with you "Horse Railroads", "Iron bridges" and Elovements.

Give my love to all over home, and kind remembrances to all friends of the family and my own old & young, male & shemale. And with the kindest love and regards for yourself & Kill, believe me.

Your aff. coz.

Waters

Camp of 93rd N. Y. V.
Near Warrenton V.a.
Octo 22nd 1863

Dear Coz Libbie

You seem to think I did not appreciate your second letter, you are terribly mistaken though, it must have been from something I wrote, but whatever it was, was only in explanation of my writing a double letter, and that was because we were on the march and expected to be for some days and I knew I should have others from home to answer, and there would be but few chances, but as for giving you the idea that your second letter was at all unwelcome, I never intended and you should know better.

We are encamped almost on the very ground that McClellan took leave of us on, this makes our third camp "near Warrenton". I dont much believe the stories about McClellan that the papers publish, should they prove true, although the army would still regard him with the respect due to our best general, still he would be very much lowered in their opinion as a man, for nothing could give better satisfaction to the army than the result of the late elections.

About that picture I sent home with the others - by the way, did I send three besides the young lady? I certainly must have sent that one by mistake. I happened to have it in my pocket it was given to me by the young ladies brother the night before just as we were about leaving Culpepper. I dont know what possessed the fair damsel to send it to me. You remember a young miss who called to see me (and left a bundle to bring to her brother) when I was home last winter, that is supposed to be the original of the picture, which you can keep, you need not put it with my military picture though. I could not think at first what you ment by the other picture, for I had not missed the picture at all, and as for her being a beaux of mine, that is a thundering big "aint so", she may know why she sent it, but the ways of the sex are very strange. And I dont pretend to fathom them, but enough of that. I wish you would send me a photograph of Uncle & Aunt and I will find a way to keep them here and as long as I live, if possible. If Uncle Wm & Aunt Polly have not gone home, you may give them one of mine, and get some more for me. I wish you would get me another dozen anyway, not to exchange with Miss W - but to give to friends in the Army.

I had a letter from Bob Getty to-night, the first in about five or six months, I was bound not to write untill he did.

We are likely to stay here some days, as the Rebs destroyed the rail-road from Briston Station to Rappahannock station, and it will take some days to repair. There is various opinions as to the Generalship of Genl Mead throughout this last move, but the general one seems to be that he did all for the best, and that had he not done just as he did, we should have suffered terribly in loss of men and trains. Genl Mead was willing to fight them and offered battle two or three times but they did not appear to like our position, the morning after I wrote to them our trains were ordered back in anticipation of a fight on the old Bull Run ground, and we moved back about a mile but nary fight, and so we came on here. We had a fine chance to look over the Battle ground of two of our largest fights, and it is fearfull to see the destruction and desolation, the country is all laid waste and run wild, and I shot pigs in

Letter of Octo 22nd 1863

the woods that have run wild for want of owners, and human bones are to be seen in every direction. They dont appear to have dug any graves in those days but just thrown dirt over them as they lay where they were killed, and the dirt being taken from beside the body, leaves a hollow and the rain washes the earth right back into the hole, from off the body. It was probably the Rebs who did the undertaking and they appear to have used both sides alike in burrying, such is war!

With love to Uncle Aunt, Abbie, Em, Kill, Carrie, Job, Lyd, Joe, and to all the Washington Co folks and to E. B. & family when you write, I am with the kindest regards for yourself.

Your aff coz.

Waters

P. S. Remember me to all friends! W.

Camp of 93rd N. Y. Vols.
Near Auburn, V.a.
Octo 29th 1863

My Dear Uncle,

Your expected letter of the 24th Inst was received last evening, and I hasten to answer it for I fear I have not written to you as often as I might have done. But you know we have been moveing almost constantly, and I knew you were sure of my good health and whereabouts from the letters to the girls. I have received but one letter from Mary since they moved out west, and that I answered two or three weeks ago, but I will write again for as you say, they must feel rather lonely in that strange place, and I will endeavor to so write certainly as often as I hear from them. I wrote to Eph only about two weeks before I wrote Mary, and if both letters arrived safely, I think that is not so bad.

I am glad to hear of the continued good health of Aunt Hannah and yourself, and although you both are getting pretty well along to a ripe old age, I trust you will yet live many years in good health, to rest after the labors of a well spent life. Aunt Hannah must feel very sad to part with Her only Brother, but it may be for the best. What did Uncle William say to his westward move? Had it been attended with succes or not?

I occasionally see my Brother William he is with his regiment, and is looking very well, they have only a year and six or seven days more to serve before their time is up, but a great many may be killed in that time. There is great differance of opinion as to the time we shall be mustered out. Some think it will the 27th of Nov 1864, others the 5th of December 1864, and others again, the 8th of January 1865. Our youngest company was mustered in on the 27th of November and I am inclined to think that to be the correct time, but the Colonels commission dates the 8 of Jany 1865. All the talk about the Veteran Corps has subsided, and I think it will prove an entire failure, because as the remaining time grows less & less, that the regiments have to serve, on this term of enlistment, a few weeks at home will be less attractive, in view of the longer one after a few months. As for me I have about made up my mind to stay the remaining thirteen or fourteen months and no longer. I would not reinlist for five times the pay to be compelled to stay on duty at Hdqrs. It may be serving the country, but it is mighty spiritless business. We may get our share of fighting yet ere our time is up, but I do not at all see any prospect of the chance.

I have not the most remote idea of what the movements are to be this fall, the Rail-Road is finished as far as here (Cotletts Station) and we expect to move every day, but the prospect is no better than it was last winter at Falmouth for a very heavy move, the general opinion seems to be that we shall have no more severe fighting here this fall. But perhaps General Meade knows better than general opinion.

I am perfectly well, the late marches have not affected me in the least. There seems to be a prospect of leaves of absence being granted this fall & winter, but for only ten days, unless in case of sickness in self or family, in case of self sickness it requires a certificate from the surgeon that the leave is absolutely necessary to preserve the life of the applicant, that is not my case, and although I should like to give you a good long visit this winter, I fear it will be for only the ten days. But then I promise not to make any such N. Y. visit. I wrote to Bob Getty, that if

Letter of Octo 29th 1863

he wished to visit with me this time it must be in Troy. This is all supposing I get the leave. I am going to try it as soon as they are granted, and Keep trying untill I succede.

Remember me to Mr & Mrs Kerr, Mr & Mrs James Knowlson, Rev Mr. Robertson & wife and all the Park Church friends young and old.

With Love to all the family and many wishes for your health and comfort, I remain as ever,

Your aff Nephew

Waters W. Braman

To Uncle Waters

P. S. We are mustered for pay day after to-morrow, and expect our pay in from two to three weeks.

W.

Thursday Novem 5th 1863
Camp of 93rd N. Y. Vols.
Near Three Mile Station, V.a.

Dear Cousin Libbie,

It seems to have pleased the Rebs to let us remain in one camp for a week at a time, and it seems rather strange after our rapid moves last month, but we expect to march tomorrow, and the men are to carry only eleven days rations. I think our colored individual of African decent, "(the innocent cause of the war") will have an awful hump on his back, with Capt Bs, my own and what he will need himself, it will be a little rough, but we have lived pretty well in this camp, and will start feeling good, anyway. It is said we are going down the "neck" between the potomac and Rappahannock rivers, to a place called Urbanna, it may be only a story though, that would bring us to within about forty miles of Richmond, and we would then have to cross the Rappahannock, Mattapony & Parrunkey rivers and that would bring us to McClellans old battle grounds of Fair Oaks, Seven Pines and the Chicehominy. Yours of the 30th ult I received and found the pictures all right. Am much obliged. I think this lot will fill all my promises, and I have a good many pictures due me (not ladies). I will have to be more careful in future when I send any home, I can-not send that one again, that is sure, and you may keep it.

I had a letter from Mary - the day I wrote to Uncle Waters and answered it the next day, so that must be all straight. She seems to be more contented and I think they are quite pleased with Wabash. She gave me a kind invitation to come out there, providing I got a good long furlough this winter, but I am afraid that if I get any it will be for ten days only.

I to-day received a letter from Wood Willard & P, saying that the boots would be in Washington about the 12th of this month & if our communications will admit, and Genl Patrick is willing, I expect to be there about that time, but shall stay only long enough to get the boots, probably over one night, and then return.

There is a story that our detail which went to N. Y. for drafted men has been sent to South Caroline in charge of "conscript" for Genl Gillmore, so we do not expect to see them or any "drafted men" for some time to come, they will be there to give us a reception next fall on our return, unless they hurry. There is a good deal of anxiety here to learn the news from the State of N. Y. Newspapers are at a premium, in consequence.

In the last lot of Troy Daily Times papers I received there was a piece mentioning one of co "B" of our Regiment, as a meritorious & modest young soldier, the facts and his military history shows it on a company memorial that has been gotten up, that he is a D. B. vulgarly translated meaning Dead Beat, just about a year ago he deserted and it is supposed gave himself up to the Rebs, at all events he was taken to Richmond, paroled & exchanged, & has since been hanging around the camp of paroled & exchanged prisoners at Annapolis M.d. That is active service with a vengeance, hunting bugs I guess. And in regard to the charge of stealing money from sick soldiers letters, it is generally believed that he did do it. Dont you think he deserves a commission. If the paper had not got lost, the commandant of Co B was going to write his history from the books of the company, and I was going to send it with the "Article" to the Whig for publication. It makes me mad to see a man

Letter of Novem 5th 1863

that never did a days real service to the country, and is such a rascal besides as he is, get off as easily as he has done, he has done enough to shoot a better man. I dont know but I will send a "piece" to the Whig as it is.

With love to all, Uncle, Aunt, Abbie, Em & Kill, Carrie, Job, Lyd, Joe & all. Remember me to all Park Church friends and to Nellie H - & all absent ones when you write. And with lots for yourself, I remain

Your aff. cousin

Waters

To Cousin Libbie

Camp of 93rd N. Y. Vols.
Near Brandy Station V.a.
November 9th 1863

My Dear Coz Em,

Your letter has been received about ten minutes. I was just about writing to Uncle Waters, so as you have cheated him out of a letter, you must show him this as soon as you get it, for it was knowing that he would be anxious to hear after he learns of the moves and skirmishes of the past three days. As for the 93rd we have been every where on the north side of the Rappahannock from Falmouth almost to Rappahannock Station. Yesterday we marched down below Kelly's ford and back, and today almost to Culpepper C. M. & back, and the story is that we are to re-cross the river and go down below Falmouth - but we know nothing for certain. One thing is certain though, that the Rebs got most awfully whipped night before last, and today have been driven beyond Culpepper. There was over eighteen hundred prisoners sent away from Hdqrs yesterday, and I dont know how many more to go away tomorrow.

I am very much obliged to you for sending the Photographs. I am glad to have them, and will keep them safe. About that paragraph in the N. Y. Times. We had seen it! The Facts are these, Col Butler arrested two men of the Oneida Cavalry (Orderlys for Genl Ingalls) for gambling, and sent them to Genl Patrick, and from that Mr. Wand (artist for Harpers Weekly) made the sketch which appeared in that paper, and he has promised to correct it.

I have received letters from Mrss. Wood Willard & Prentice saying that the boots I ordered are in Washington, and just as soon as we get settled I am expecting to go down for them. The Rail is finished as far as Germantown. It will take a week to fix it to the River. The Road is not destroyed at all on this side, and as long as we stay on this side, I shall not go down for the boots untill the Road is in Running order.

Our detail has not yet returned, and conscripts we have none, and we do not know when to expect them. It is said that they are all gone in charge on conscripts to Genl Gillmore, at Morris Island, S. C.

We do not hear anything more about the Veteran Corps, but it may be revived after we get into Winter Quarters, I guess with little success as the men who have been away from home almost three years will be looking forward to the time when they will be free again. Although I do think that two thirds of the Army would reinlist before they had been home three months. I tell you this Army is just a Bully Army. I have seen them for the past three days marched & counter-marched into the fight and out of it, and they appear to feel tip-top, and a stragler is a thing unknown.

Give my love to all the family, my respects to all of Kill's family and kind remembrances to all the fair sex, next door, and elsewhere. Hoping to be with you one day, soon, on furlough, I remain with a thousand good wishes for yourself & Kill, as ever,

Your aff. coz

Waters

Camp of 93rd N. Y. Vols.
Near Brandy Station V.a.
Novem 10th 1863

My Dear Uncle,

Your Kind letter of the 6th Inst, I have just received, I was just about writing to you last night, after we got to this camp, but Ems last letter came, and so I answered it immediately. When we came here last night, we were sent out to clear up a new camp, in the woods about a quarter of a mile from here, and have done so, and Hdqrs have moved there today, and we expect to move nearer in the morning. That looks as if we were going to remain here some days, at least untill the Rail Road is repaired, I am expecting to go to Washington tomorrow or next day, to bring up those Boots. We are expecting our pay in this camp, if I go to Washington shall probably get mine while there, if so will send probably \$150.00 from there. I was thinking some of writing to you to invest the money I had sent home, in the US -5-20 loan, as I think it is not only a good investment, but strengthens the hands of the government, which we are all bound to do, but I guess it is just as well, for when I come home (for good) there is no telling what I might want to do with it, and it will certainly be available where it is, and might not, in the other case. But I do think as a permanent investment it cant be beat. I mean by the time our Regiment is mustered out to have from 2300 to 2500 Dollars saved, and I think that will be doing pretty well, and I am sure there is not an officer in the regiment that dresses any better than I do, but I guess their whiskey bill is larger, and I have no doubt there are officers in the regiment that have not saved as much as it cost them recruiting, since they have been in the service.

We are to have a new commandant of the Post I think it is Col Butler, for he seems to feel pretty good to-night, I think the commanding officer of the regiment should be commandant, for he then could regulate details, and would save sending all orders through one persons hands.

We had a very little flurry of snow last night, but not to amount to anything, we could see the hills of the Blue Ridge last evening (about fifteen miles) all white, it has been pretty cold for the last four or five days, but not very unpleasant, nothing to what it was last year this time.

The Rebs had things all fixed up for winter, on this side of the River, log houses, brick chimneys, etc. but they were slightly mistaken that time. It does seem as if we had aught to push on, to Richmond if possible, but I suppose Genl Meade knows best. Soldiers must eat or they cant fight. The fight at Rappahannock crossing was short but mighty sharp. The Rail Road is not disturbed on this side of the River. The Opinion seems to be that we will wait untill the Road is repaired, and then push on with all our forces.

With love to Aunt, Abbie, Libbie, Em, Kill, Carrie, Job & Little Abbie, Lyd & Joe, & all the Washington Co friends, remember me to all Park Church and other friends in Troy. And the kindest wishes for your own health & prosperity I remain, as ever,

Your aff. Nephew

Waters W. Braman

Camp of 93rd N. Y. Vols.
Near Brandy Station
Nov 19th 1863

Dear Cousin Lib,

I found yours of the 12th awaiting my return from Washington, which event occurred last night. I brought on all the express and other goods belonging to the regiment. The boots from Wood, W & P. are very satisfactory indeed. Our paymaster came down to the army on Monday but has not as yet been to the regiment. I got my own pay in the city and sent \$125 to Uncle Waters by express. We are expecting the paymaster tomorrow and every day untill he gets around to us.

I met Mr. Phipps in Washington, and he seemed rather pleased than otherwise at the approaching marriage of Annie. I am glad too for she is doing so well. I met a young man on the cars yesterday that used to go to the Institute in 1859. I declare I have forgotten his name (good gossip am I not?) but he was Quarter Master of the 22nd Mass. He was acquainted with yourself and Abbie and I think I have seen him at the house at any rate he spoke of you all and inquired after all. You remember Mr. Hart. I took down a prisoner who said he was wounded and discharged from the rebel service, and was in the Commissary department in Richmond. The Prisoner was a former resident of Alexandria also. By the way how comes on our M. D. of Canadian notoriety, is he well etc?

I had a very pleasant time in Washington, considering the time I staid and the amount of business I had on hand. I put up at the Kirkwood but staid two nights with Mr Cooper and wife. I wonder if "Horace Jones" and his bride were not in Washington. I thought I saw him and a lady pass a store I was in, but thought no more of it untill I got your letter in camp. I think after a little I shall be able to get a pass for Uncle & Kill to come down to the army and should like to have them come and stay a week or so. I only wish they could visit us in Richmond. We have orders today for eleven days rations, perhaps it means move and perhaps it dont, but we are ready for what comes, and do not care. The Cars run through to Culpepper with supplies yesterday for the first, and I should not be surprised if we moved Hdqrs down there any day.

Col Crocker is not yet returned. Is it not strange how Major Cassidy remains so long away, his leg is said to be two inches shorter than before broken & we scarcely ever expect to see him in the field again.

I am well and hearty, as ever. Give my love to all the family and kind remembrances to all friends, and believe me to remain

Your aff cousin

Waters

To Cousin Libbie

Sunday Eve
Camp of 93rd N. Y. Vols.
Near Brandy Station V.a.
Novem 22nd 1863

My Dear Em,

Again I find myself gratefully indebted to you, yours of the 19th inst is just received. And there being a prospect of an immediate move, I hasten to answer, fearing that on the march I should not have a chance to write, and letters accumulate mighty fast, enough so sometimes as to require double-headed ones to catch up, and I like to answer each in turn & to themselves individually. I do not see any prospect of that letter of Carries - "written the night before" interfering with my other correspondence, as I have not yet received it, but hope to.

As to Feminine Visitors, I deny having had the honor of a visit from Mrs. Mc-Drum, or a chance to display my gallantry to the tune of Three Dollars, for I have not seen the fair lady in question, - neither do I believe she has honored the Army of the Potomac by her presence. She may have been to visit Pat however, as the 2nd Cavalry is at the Dismounted Camp near Washington.

You have doubtless noticed in the Troy Times, of the Ordination of a Mr Crawford as a Presbyterian Minister, preparatory to his accepting an appointment as Chaplain of our regiment. Said appointment or prospect of one is a Humbug. We have been talking of having a Chaplain, but Mr. Crawford's name was never voted on as a candidate for the position, and in my opinion his connection ceased forever when he resigned his former commission. Our regiment was paid off to-day, for the months of September & October, and I wish Kill would go and see Mrs. Wood Willard & Prentice of Troy, and say to them that I have sent them by the same mail with this, a check on the Assistant Treasurer at N. Y. No. 148 of Major E. L. Moore, Paymaster U. S. A. for \$501.25/100 & Payable to their order, with the view to have the payment stopped in N. Y. should it not arrive in proper time.

We had a funeral yesterday of a man of Co. I the first death in the regiment in a year, should the coming year be as bloodless for the 93rd, I think I stand a pretty fair chance of coming home safe and sound.

I made quite a stay in the demoralized city of Washington, and had a very pleasant time, visited the Patent Office, Capital National Library, White House and all places of Notoriety. I had been through the Arsenall & Navy Yard before. Had I expected to stay as long as I did, I would have telegraphed to Uncle & Kill, and tried and got them down to the Army. I think I can by & by, if they will write me about the time it will be most convenient. I believe I saw Horace J. Richards in Washington but was not sure.

Remember me to all the fair ladies of my acquaintance, also to Bob Getty and his family. Give my respects to Margt, Helen, Lew & Bill, and Kills folks of my acquaintance. My love to all over home, and kindest wishes for yourself & Kill. Good bye untill my next or untill Geo. G. sees fit to grant that furlough to

Your aff cousin

Waters

Monday night 7 oc.
Camp of 93rd N. Y. Vols.
Near Brandy Station V.a.
Novem 23rd 1863

Dear Uncle,

We march at daylight for, No one Knows where, some say to the James River, but certain we start, and today have sent away everything in the shape of trunks, office tents, and everything which could be dispensed with for ten days, and we were ordered to have eleven days rations, but where we go we know not. There has been the most extensive preparations made this time for a long move, that I have seen since being at Hdqrs and if you do not hear from me for a week to come you need not be at all surprised, but I will write if occasion offers, I wrote to Em yesterday, and should not have written now but for the coming move, and a poor prospect for receiving or sending letters for some days.

My promotion to the rank of Captain was sent forward to the Governor, to-day, and if nothing happens shall expect to hear from it in a week or so, but you know that such things are mighty uncertain. At all events, I will write you as soon as I hear anything from Albany, for I know you feel an interest in all that concerns me. You know that Major Cassidy has been away for about six months with a broken leg, and there being no prospect of his so far recovering as to retake the field, he has been mustered out of the service. Capt Barnes is nominated to the Governor as Major in place of Major C - Capt McC - is working for it also, and of course can bring a strong influence to bear on Gov Seymour, but Cap Barnes name is now sent forward, and I think and hope he will get it. I think in either case I shall be made Captain, but I would prefer Co. C. to Co. K.

I wrote Em in regard to our being paid off etc. I shall not send any more money home this pay day, as it falls to my lot to run the mess for the coming two months, and I may get a furlough at any moment.

With Love to all the Family, & kind wishes for all friends, I am forever,

Your aff Nephew

Waters W. Braman

P. S. Dont go and direct any letters to me as Captain, untill I write something definite, and I should prefer that you keep the contents of this letter to yourself alone.

Waters

P. S. 2nd 10 O. C. P. M.

I see Wm every day or two he is encamped near us, he looks & feels well. I saw two deserters from the 2nd Division 6th Corps, Branded with a D in their right hand, today, for Deserters, I tell you it looked pretty hard, before a whole division, but it has to be done, there are to be some executiong for the same cause on Friday.

We are off at six in the morning, in haste.

Waters

Camp of 93rd N. Y. Vols.
Near Brandy Station V.a.
December 4th 1863

Dear Cousin Libbie,

Yours of the 26th ult I received yesterday morning. We returned to the old camp about daylight after marching all night, about 21 miles. You better believe we were all pretty tired after such a march through the mud and in the dark. We were away just a week to a minute, from the time we "struck camp" untill we march in again, of course we were without mail on the campaign, and I found a letter from Kill, and one from Mary, besides yours, on our return.

We had a very lively time across the Rapidan. We never staid over one night in one camp and only by accident that we took over one meal in a place, we were so continually on the move, and if we did put tents to sleep in, we took them down at daylight, in fact during daylight there was continued fighting, and all of it skirmishing, no general engagement at all. We were ordered across the river by the authorities at Washington, and ordered back again by the same. I hope the move helped our armies otherwheres, but I am sure it did us no good, for it is said that General Meade wanted very much to fight a general engagement, but was denied the priviledge of fighting it, by higher authority, it is the general opinion here that we could have whipped Lees army, and that we had at least twenty-thousand more than he did untill the day before we came back. Oh! well, if we did any good we are satisfied, but what with the rain, mud and cold wind, we had a little the most serious time we ever had, and it is a miracle to me (and I have seen some hard roads in the army) how all our trains got through as they did.

All our baggage that was sent back to Alexandria has returned, we are in the very same camp and are fixed even nicer than before. Hdqrs are having sidewalks built, look out for furloughs!

We have a new Major, McConihe, late Captain of "K" Co, he got the appointment through Major Cassidy's and his friends influence with the Governor, in spite of the recommendation of the Col for Capt Barnes to be appointed. I do not know how the appointment for the next Captaincy will go, I was recommended by the Colonel at the same time of the Captain being recommended for the Majority. And again today but I fear that the Rum clique are working against me, and that Lt Fitch will get it. I have written to Uncle Waters on the subject tonight.

Love to Uncle, Aunt, Em, Kill, Abbie and all, and the same to yourself, and hoping soon to visit you all, I remain.

Your aff. cousin

Waters

Camp of 93rd N. Y. Vol. Infantry
Near Brandy Station V.a.
Sunday December 6th 1863

Dear Friend Kill,

Yours of the 25th ult were received in company with a number of others, on our return from the last campaign of the Grand Army of the Potomac. You never was more mistaken in your life than in supposing that we had any kind of a celebration here on Thanksgiving day, if we did I think the authorities were mistaken in the day, for we had Fire-Works like July ye-fourth only more so. The Turkies & Chickens we had next day on the south side of the Rapidan. I reckon our regiment took, at least one hundred of the feathered gentry, into the union, and no end of Sheep and hogs. In Southern parlance "I reckon the Yankees toted off a right smart of Turkies, Geese, and other garden-sass".

I am sorry I did not write to you in time before I went to Washington the last time, for I do not know when I shall go there again unless it is on my way north on furlough. And the last time I had an unlimited pass, being detailed on business from Hdqrs to return when that business was finished. If you should come to the National Capital, dont fail to bring your Check Book, for no "harness" that you have got affords pockets enough to hold the money that can be spent in that city in a short campaign of a week or so.

We have a new Major Saml McConihe, he will undoubtedly make a good one, but I fear that in engineering him in, they have engineered me out, although they all claim that it was not so intended, and that if I get Euchred it will be by some act of Col Crockers who is up there, not yet having returned from Rikers Island.

There is some talk of a move about Tuesday or Wednesday. It is said that we accomplished all that was intended on the other move by preventing Lee from sending any of his force away to the relief of Bragg or Longstreet, but what the intention of this one is remains a mystery, some say that we are going into Winter Quarters, on the other side of the Rappahannock, if so I am in for my ten days ride on the cars, to Troy & return.

I do not hear a word from Bob G. lately, and fear that should I succede in getting a furlough, that I shall not visit him as long in New York as last year, that visit created a world of talk too.

I am rejoyced to hear of the succesfull close of a good years business for the firm, and trust that other years may bring like results.

Remember me to all your family and my friends. Give my love to all the family and good health and prosperity for yourself and Em, will ever be the wish of

Yours Truly

Waters W. Braman

Camp of 93rd N. Y. Vols.
Near Brandy Sta V.a.
Dec 13th 1863

Dear Cousin Abbie,

Yours of the 5th was received two or three days ago, but I have been so busy that I have failed to answer it. The reason why I have been so busy is that, orders from the War Department have been issued allowing the men, on condition of their re-inlisting for three years more, a furlough of thirty days. And I was appointed "Recruiting officer for the 93rd" and have been busy making out the papers. I think most of the companies will re-enlist, in which case they will come to Albany to re-organize and re-cruit and will probably be at home two months or more. If the companies do so re-enlist the officers are re-tained. I do not know for certain as Co C will, if they do I shall be at home in less than two weeks to stay at least a month and probably two. And if they do not, I expect to get a "leave of absence" for fifteen days about Christmas. It does not make the least differance with the officers, they are not required to muster in again, and I suppose on the expiration of their present term can leave the service. So there will be time enough to see if I am to be a Veteran for more than the year to come, I will bring all the orders home with me, so you can all see them.

In regard to the Captaincy, there is no chance for me this time, for Lt Fitch not "Smith" has received notification of his appointment. It was all done by Col Crocker, notwithstanding his assurance to me at a dozen different times, and I dont care either, although rank is everything in the service. I have learned since that Capt McConihe and those who figured him into the Majority, thought I was certain of the place of Capt for Maj McConihe says that if he had thought Fitch would have got it he would have tryed and got his 1st Lt appointed. But Capt Wilson who is Lt Fitch's Capt is up there with Col Crocker and persuaded him to appoint Fitch. I should not be at all surpsised if Col Crocker lost his position, in the Veteran reorganization for the majority of the officers are very much down on him.

That was all a humbug about a car being hurt by Mosby, belonging to Hdqrs and no officers from here or the 93rd were captured. In regard to the wonderfull adventure of Adjut Gifford, the general opinion is that the squad ran away so fast that they did not know what the party they supposed to be rebs were. And it amounted to just nothing at all. The 93rd lost but one man while over the River (Hickey of Co I) supposed to be captured, while carrying a dispatch.

I have received Ems, Kills & Libs letters but none in answer to the ones I wrote immediatly after coming back to camp. Give my love to all the family, dont be surprised to see me any time after a week from now, untill I come.

I wish Lib would buy a nice little dress or something (or a full rig) for each of Lyds children, something nice that you both think appropriate, for Christmas, and if I am not there send it to her in my name get the money from Uncle Waters. With love to yourself and all, and kind remembrances to all the young folks who have been kind enough to enquire after me and excuse the haste of

Waters

Camp of 93rd N. Y. Vols.
Near Brandy Station V.a.
Dec 22nd 1863

Dear Uncle,

Your last from Wabash, was received day before yesterday. I was glad to learn of the succesfull termination of Ephs seasons business. And in regard to my coming home from the Army for good, I am very much obliged for your kind offers and suggestions, and we will talk about that, when I come home this winter, but I think I shall have to stay in the Army just about a year. If my own wishes were consulted I would come home immediatly, and settle down for good, but I do not see how I could do it honorably just as things stand at present. Because I want to stay long enough to see some things right that are far from it just now. Capt Barnes Resigned yesterday and it will undoubtedly be accepted, which will promote me, and that will make two or three in the company among boys who have always stood by me, and they have re-enlisted in the Veteran Corps, and untill I can see them fixed all right, for although Capt B. is a very nice man he has a good many relations in the company and they have had to be first served. And after that is done I can come home contented to remain. But I am in hopes this war will be ended in the coming year, and I would like to see it. But as I think now, I shall not remain longer than that. You cannot appreciate the motives which move a man in the Army. One thing is I dont feel like coming home in the same rank as I came out. Who is to blame I know, and so do others in this regiment. Some that will see John S - leave the service dishonorably, before they leave it.

Col Crocker returned to the Regiment to-day, he says that our Regiment is to have the first Recruits or Conscripts from Rikers Island to the number of four hundred & seventy. I suppose the Col will recommend me for the Captaincy, and I can also get a recommend signed by every other officer in the Regiment, so I think there is no doubt of it. The Veterans of Our Regiment are expecting to start day after tomorrow for home, they are to be paid their old and advanced Bounty to-morrow. I am some expecting to come home in charge of the squad from Co 'C'. The other five Cos. go home as complete cos. but we shall leave about as many behind as will go, of the Company. So you see when the company is broken up next fall it will be easier getting out of the service than now. I have thought a great deal about your letter and the advice it contained and I do think it would be for my interest to take that advice and act on it to the very letter. But I do think it best to stay for the present for I might be drafted if I came home, and I should not be surprised if there is a second draft if no substitutes were allowed. At all events I shant say I will or wont, untill I see you. And you aught to know what weight your advice should have with me.

If we do come home, shall be there a month certain, and probably two, and I am anticipating a pleasant visit, with you all, not like my flying one of last winter. Remember me to the Domine and wife and all the Park Church friends, to all of Kill's family and other acquaintances. I am going over in the morning to the 77th to see Wm. Give my love to all, Aunt Hannah, Libbie, Abbie, Em, Kill, and to all the Washington Counties. Wishing you good health and a merry and happy Christmas I remain as ever.

Your aff. Nephew

Waters

Camp of 93rd N. Y. Vols.
Near Brandy Sta, V.a.
December 26th 1863

Dear Cousin Libbie,

I have delayed answering your last favor, from day to day in hopes to write for certain when we were coming home. We expect now to be there before New Years day. Three-quarters of 'C' Co have re-enlisted in the Veteran Corps, so that they are coming home in a body and the officers are to accompany them. Seven Companies of the 93rd are coming they are to have a furlough of thirty-five days, and perhaps will stay longer.

The Veterans of our Regiment were paid off today, their old Bounty and their advance on the new, most all of Co C drew over two hundred Dollars. I wrote to Uncle Waters that Capt Barnes had sent in his resignation, he had done so, but it was not accepted, so the officers of Co "C" remain as they were. The Capt is fearfull that the authorities will try to retain him when the time of the old organization expires, but I think different. You may safely expect me at home by Wednesday, and Thursday certain, please have my overcoat aired, and the cape too. I do not think of anything else at present, did you get the things for Abbie Jr & Lyds babies, in time for Christmas, if so I am much obliged.

A great many of the Army are re-enlisting, and I have no doubt that over a million of Dollars have been paid as Bounties already. Aside from the re-enlisting there is nothing of interest transpiring in the Army. Those of our regiment who do not re-enlist (three companies) are to remain here and we are to rejoin them here. I do not know who they will have to assist them in the duty while we are gone, but it is said that there is part of a regiment of regulars coming. I think even they can learn something of the duty of a soldier on guard, from the 93rd. A great many of our regiment would like it if we were not to return to Head Quarters.

Col Crocker is back and is apparently just the same, he is as flush with his assurances of favor to myself as ever. And has assured me at least a dozen times that I was the next candidate for promotion. I wish I had kept a list of how many times he had done the same for the past two years.

Give my love and the compliments of the season to all the family, and remember me to all the young folks of my acquaintance, at the Park Church in particular. And wishing you all a very many "Happy New Years" in health and prosperity, and before the coming of another, Peace to be throughout all our land, I remain as ever,

Your Aff. Cousin

Waters W. Braman

To Cousin Lib