

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.

Harrisons Point Landing, Va.
James River, July 4th, 1862

Dear Libbie:

Almost two weeks have passed and now I am only just answering your letter, not from negligence or forgetfulness but from lack of time. When your letter came I was at White House enjoying myself but there is no White House now & only ruins where it was. According to orders from Genl. McClellan- Gen. Casey came to White House to take command of the evacuation and I was ordered to select thirty men from the 93d Regt - 20 men from the 6th Pa. V. & 12 cav. from the 11th Pa. V. Cav. to act as Provost Guard and ordered to report them & myself to Gen. Casey which I did accordingly. In the scamper (masterly Retreat) the 93d came down to Fortress Monroe on the Knickerbocker and from there up the James River to this place where they landed and left me & the 30 men from the 93d still on the boat where I am at present moment acting as AAQM for Gen. Casey. I understand the boat is to be turned over to the Sanitary Commission again and we are to go ashore immediately I do not know if I shall report back to my Regt. or be detained on the Staff of Gen. Casey. I don't care which. The 93d is to be again united and are ordered to join Picks Division I do not know what Brigade. Our Army, or rather the right of it, have retreated before superior numbers and the base of operations is the famous James River. The loss on both sides has been heavy. The mud here is at least a foot in depth and it is terrible to see the wounded & other soldiers lying right in it. Today I saw the Gun Boats, among which was the Monitor, fire some shots from their biggest guns which appear to be very nice play things. I am sorry the few things I sent home have caused so much bragging and perhaps hard feeling. I am sure I never intended them to have such an effect.

Give my love to all friends, Hemale and Shemale and to Em & Kill & to all the folks at Union Village and at home & believe me as ever,

Your affec. Cousin

Waters

Harrisons Landing
Virginia, July 8th, 1862

Dear Em:

Since writing to you last the 93d Regt. & myself have seen various changes having evacuated White House and been floating around on the steamer Knickerbocker to Fortress Monroe and here at the time of the Schedadle I was acting as AAQM for Gen. Casey and you had better believe I was busy enough. I was fixed the best I had been yet at the time. I had my quarters in the grounds of the White House and was having splendid times when we were ordered to join Picks Division with the whole Regiment, but McClellan would not let the other companies from there go and so the rest of the Regt. is ordered back here and is doing the same duty as we were at the White House. As for myself, I was half way inclined to stay with Gen. Casey but he was ordered to take command of McCalls Div. and I concluded to join the Regt. and started with the provost guard but was ordered to guard some Q.M. stores & have been at it night & day, & am to be provost guard here now that the rest of our Regt. is here to guard the stores.

I wish you & Kill had been here last evening for we had a party on a tug boat and went on board of the Monitor, Galena & other of our own Gun Boats & the Teazer, Rebel Gun Boat lately captured above here. We had a splendid sail. I am about the same distance from Fortress Monroe & Richmond but am only about 4 or 3 miles from the front of the army, and in fact there are so many troops here we are in the very midst of them. If Kill will come down he can come here easier than he could to White House and I can assure him a tip-top reception, as I have nice quarters down at the landing & Lt. Col. Butler the Provost Marshall & Col. Rotch who is on Gov. Morgan's staff and myself have a mess together & the Provost Guard manage to live cheap & well.

I sent a day or two ago by Major Evens, lately our Chief Musician, a Revolver taken from a Sesesh Major at the Battle of Williamsburgh to Kill, a book from White House to you & a cup & some buttons to Lib. The pair of crossed sabres I want kept as they were given to me by a very particular friend. Everything at the White House was destroyed even the House itself and all the books, & c. Hoping to hear from you soon & if possible see Kill or both of you, & with love to all, I am as ever,

Your affec. Coz,

Waters

Gen. Casey has since gone home for some reason or other as I learned from Lieut. Foster, who is now on Gen. McClellan's staff. My respects to all the young ladies.

W.

Harrisons Landing, Virginia
July 10th, 1862

Dear Uncle & Cousin:

Your last was received in due time, in fact I have more letters than I can very well answer.

Yesterday I was out to the front and out on a little reconnoissance and we took two prisoners and found only about 12,000 Rebels about 4 miles out. I went to see if I could find Wm. or else find out something about him. I had some trouble to find the Regt. and when I did it was out for a skirmish. I saw Capt. Norton in whose company he was and he says that Wm. was taken prisoner a week ago last Friday. He was sent down to Savages Station to see about getting off some sick from the "Hospital" there and was taken prisoner at that place and I think he is now in Richmond. Never mind, he won't be as likely to get shot as he would here and it would be worse for him to be killed than me for he has a wife to support. I wish you would write the news to Lydia but tell them I am certain he is not killed.

As to the effect of the late movement on the army of the Potomac. It no doubt was a grand thing for our army or what was left of them but a very dangerous experiment in the face of an enemy three times their own men. Our loss in the series of battles was of men at least 20,000 men, 42 pieces of cannon, 7 or 800 horses, the loss of the enemy I am satisfied was equal to if not greater but as they not only have their own & our wounded the exact loss is hard to determine. We have taken also a great many of their cannon, mostly light artillery however, while ours was very heavy guns that were impossible to get off, but as to our army being whipped, no one that could have seen President Lincoln & Geo. B. McC. pass along the lines & hear the cheering would think it for a moment. And the perfect order which regains when so large a body of troops is congregated in so small a space is a sufficient sign of good discipline and confidence in the troops.

What the movements will be it is impossible to guess. The enemy are in possession of both sides of the river above and below us and are continually firing on our mail and other boats between here and the Fortress. We have in all about fourteen or fifteen gunboats in the river which is capable of silencing any battery the enemy may construct. And I feel certain that the loss of the enemy has been so great that had we reinforcements McClellan would be in Richmond in less than a week. The latest news from the front is that the enemy are again retreating on Richmond with what intention is impossible to say at present.

The weather is terrible warm. But we do not suffer much except in the middle of the day. There is but very little sickness in the army and that is all Typhoid Fever. As for myself, I am well as ever and hope to remain so, & to hear that you are all too. I am glad to hear from Libbie that Mr.

Kerr is a little better and hope he will soon be entirely recovered.

The 2nd N. Y. has seen pretty rough times lately compared to what they did at Newport News. As far as any danger goes we are safer here (the 93d) than we were at White House unless the rascals take a notion to build a battery on the other side of the river and shell our camp some fine night.

With love to all the folks at Union Village and Washington County generally, and to Aunt, Em, Kill & all I remain as ever,

Your affectionate Nephew

Waters W. Braman

P.S. We had Commodore Wilkes to dinner yesterday with our mess. He has come to take command of the Gun Boats on this River. He is the same man that arrested Mason & Slidell. I have addressed this letter to Libbie to make it answer two letters but will write again day after tomorrow, if nothing happens more than I know.

As ever,

Waters

Harrisons Landing, Va.
July 13th, 1862

Dear Libbie:

Having recd. two letters from you since writing direct myself I feel some indebted to you. But I have written as often as possible to some one of the family. Some week or so ago I sent by a Mr. Evans some articles as mementoes of the War which I hope you either have or will soon receive. There was a revolver & belt a book & cup which came from White House and some sesesh buttons & a cross Sabres and enclosed I send a piece of the Rebel Balloon which was on the Rebel Gun Boat Teazer lately taken above this place when on a reconnoitre. The boat itself lays out in the stream with all one side of her blown off by the explosion of a shell.

I also send a map made by myself of the manner in which our army now lays, everything is very quiet along the lines at present but no one can tell how soon the ball will open again. No papers are now given by the Provost Marshall to citizens from Fortress Monroe to this place not even Reporters for (News Papers) and all who smuggle themselves on board the boat and get up here we have to stop & send back the next morning, so we have some very illustrious persons to stay all night with us.

We have in our mess a Colonel Rotch who is an aid to Gov. Morgan and is here under instructions from the Gov. to look after the N. Y. troops. He also has orders to look after the sick and wounded & to promotions & appointments & every thing of the kind.

Being Provost Guard is very steady duty but ever changing and rather pleasant and it certainly carries with it a great deal of authority and entitles one to a great many privileges as High & Low are obliged to recognize their authority.

Once in a while we confiscate a load of Sutters on account of having whisky on board-in that case all goes to the Sanitary Commission for use of the sick & wounded soldiers

There is but very little sickness here at present but no telling how soon yellow jack may make his appearance.

I think you have mentioned two or three times about some friend of mine in N. Y. City. I would like to have some explanation before I can understand the meaning.

With love to all, Em, Kill, Cal, Job, Syd, Joe Aunt & Uncle, Abbie, Delight, Children, & all, I remain as ever,
Your affec. Coz.,

Waters,

I am well & hearty as can be & hope to remain so,

W.

Harrisons Landing
Virginia, July 23d, 1862

Dear Uncle:

Yours of the Inst. was duly received and read with pleasure and am glad to hear Mr. Kerr is getting along so finely and hope he will soon be entirely recovered. I wish you or Kill would come down and see me. I know it would be a trip worth more than half a common life time and would only take about a week away from home. And I have as good accomodations as any general in this army, and plenty to eat & everything to make Kill & Em comfortable if they would come, and will give Kill a horse to ride and a pass to go all over the lines of the army. And if he could not get a pass from Fortress Monroe here, he can come without one as there will be no one but myself to stop them & I would not be very likely to detain them long. The "Provost Marshall" here now is "Capt. Forsyth" an aid to Gen. McClellan and what I say is all right with him. I have got 45 splendid men from the different companies of my own choice who are encamped only about 200 yards from the small wharf and my own quarters are on the bank of the River under the trees and you would hardly believe how comfortably I am fixed. (The Provost Guard generally gets the pick of everything). Still I am very busy and on duty night and day especially from the time the mail boat arrives in the afternoon till it leaves at 9 in the morning which mail boat I have the full control of while she lays at the wharf and have to examine the pass of everyone on board and if I find any one without one send them to the "Guard House".

There are three or four Gun-boats laying right opposite my quarters and are continually expecting that a rebel battery will open on us from the other bank of the river which is about a mile in width at this point, the gunboats shell the woods once in a while which is worth a weeks journey to see. On the opposite shore lives a man by the name of Ruffin whose father fired the first gun of the war at "Fort Sumter".

Everything is quiet with the Army which lays after having fallen back on its "rear" with its great legs & arms stretched out, and rests itself on the banks of the James River.

There are daily boats going up the River with flags of truce bringing down our wounded soldiers. By the kindness of a friend I have got a few Richmond papers of the 22d inst. one of which I enclose. I should have went up yesterday myself if it were possible to get away but there is no rest for this Boy. If I were not on this duty I might get sent home recruiting as we have in our mess Col. Rotch who represents Gov. Morgan. The Colonel and myself are on the best of terms and something may come of it yet.

You must be very lonely without the customary houseful you are used to.

I saw Henry Hatch yesterday. He had a letter from Ester the day before, who saw Ept, & Jim Silleck in Washington last week, but did not say anything about them in particular. Hank is in the 62d N. Y. I don't know in what position. I see lots of Troy folks here, as any one going or coming I am bound to see, and I know more than 10,000 in the army by sight if not by name I do believe. I am well and hearty and mean to keep so. Have not heard anything further from Wm. With love to Aunt Hannah, Em & Kill and all the folks, I remain as ever,

Your affectionate Nephew,

Waters W. Braman

The Regt. will be paid off in a few days and I shall send only \$150.00 as I have got to get some new clothes. I have grown so that my dress coat is not near big enough for me.

W--

Harrisons Landing, Virginia
July 27th, 1862

Dear Abbie & Libbie:

I received both of your letters, one from Union Village and the other from New Haven. I did not answer Abbie's because I did not know how to direct it so it would reach you at New Haven. I am glad you are visiting and enjoying yourselves as you are and hope you will have a good time and return safe home.

We are having fine weather here, and having splendid living compared to what we have had. I expect to have chicken for dinner today as I see the boy killing a few in very heroic style. We have lots of ice and fresh meat. Green corn, Tomatoes, & all the vegetables of the season. I am all alone comparatively as Col. Butler & Col. Rotch have gone to Albany and will be gone about two weeks. I guess they will call on Uncle Waters in Troy. Perhaps they will do something for me while they are up there. The Rebels burned a schooner loaded with damaged grain just opposite my tent. A pretty bold affair, was it not. I think I will go over and burn the house of John Ruffin, just opposite. They moved all their things in Government waggons from the house as if they expected something to happen one of these days. The prisoners who came down yesterday say the Captain of the Schooner is a prisoner in Richmond. I have a chap here, a Mr. Kuney, who is a special correspondant of the N. Y. Tribune who signs his letters D.J.K. He is a pretty smart fellow and I have lots of fun with him as we are continually fooling him, and if you want to see the news from Harrisons Landing just read his letters on the first page. They are all written in my tent and some of them are written partly by me just for fun. There will be something rich pretty soon so you may look out for it.

The Rebels have got a young Merrimac up to Richmond and will be doing with us as the Arkansas did at Vicksburgh. There is an awful lot of boats here just now. I expect Cousin Jule & Julia Frank up here in a day or two to stay over night. The 93d Regt. is all quiet and just as it has been for the past two months. As for myself, I have not slept in camp since leaving White House. I am fat & hearty, ride horse-back and enjoy myself every time I get the chance. We are having some splendid Reviews of the different Corps. of the Army and they are fine affairs. The whole army is in good condition, the best I think it has been for there are no sick or Skulkers, they are all veterans, comparatively speaking.

There is nothing new or startling going on here

and we are lost for some excitement of some kind. I hope the government will draft soon for there are some chaps in Troy I would like to see with a rifle or a musket on their shoulders. And one thing is certain, the North has either got to carry on this war to the very knife or else we may as well recognize the southern confederacy at once.

Trusting Abbie will not think I was forgetting her altogether, and with love to Em & Aunt & Uncle & all I remain as ever,

Your affec. Coz,

Waters

Harrisons Landing, Va.
July 31st, 1862

Dear Em:

This is the first day in over two months that I have been off duty. Your letter of the 20th came to hand all straight. The reason why I have leisure today is that the Regiment has so much property to guard that it was necessary to have the men which I had for guard duty, in fact, for the last week they were doing guard and Provost duty both, but now it will be done by the daily detail which will be much easier for the men & I shall not come on only once in three days, but yet I find they call on me to attend to the Mail Boat although relieved from that duty also.

As you know, the Rebels burned a schooner loaded with damaged grain about a week ago. They attempted the same thing last night but failed in the attempt. The facts are these. Just as the bells on the gun boats struck 10 o.c. we heard about ten shots, as we supposed from some of the boats in the stream, but afterwards found out that they came from the point directly opposite my tent. The Provost Marshall immediately sent orders for the Officer of the Guard Lieut. Randles, who was in my tent at the time, to take a tug and go & see what the firing meant. As this was his first day on the duty which I had been assisting him to perform, we took ten of the best men and took the tug Ajax and just as we started we heard 5 shots more which came from the stream tug Achilles. It seems immediately after the shots from Rebeldom two boats were seen coming directly towards the Kill. When within about 100 yards the Capt. of the tug hailed three times and received no reply when he fired 5 shots into them & the Rebels began to yell & started off down stream. They were hailed by another boat, the Peabody, & said they belonged to the Provost Guard. That boat had just got up from Fortress Monroe and did not know any better and let them pass and they rowed away for the point below. And although ourselves and a small gun boat was looking for them we did not get sight of them. It was about the darkest night I ever saw and raining terribly hard, but if we had only caught the Sesesh and sunk them in the James we should have been well paid for the ducking we got. We watched for them for a couple of hours but nary sesesh did we get a sight of and I wish we had, for with the ten men we had I just think we could have cleaned them out in a very few moments. I hardly think, from the warm reception they received, they will attempt the like very soon again. If I can I am going to get the Pro Marshall to let me patrol the river nights with a tug boat.

Yesterday there was some talk that the New Merrimac was expected down. Certain it is that all the gun boats except a few small ones went up the River, and we have posted on the bank of the River quite a large number of the very largest Parrott guns about 100 pounders, also the celebrated Whitworth battery which you remember was presented to the Government by loyal

Americans in Europe. They are saucy looking guns & will carry 6 miles. There are 5 of the largest guns right along side my tent which although I have sent the men I had to the Regt., I still occupy untill Col. Butler returns & also Col. Rotch when I shall move up to the Regt. Co. C. is by far the largest company in the Regt. and I flatter myself can do their duty second to none.

There is a prospect that all the troops will move over the River & take Fort Darling and then attack Richmond from that side. The whole Mortar Fleet of Burnside's expedition will be up here today and also about 20,000 of his troops and you may expect some lively work in a few days. This I know from head quarters but it is contraband news which even my friend D.J.K. of the Tribune dare not write. (He is just writing an account of the firing last night).

There is a young lady here from New York City (who by the way did not have a pass when she came) who is collecting different incidents & c of the war for a book to be published soon in that city. I have read some of the manuscript and think it quite a work. You may think it curious how I came to know all this but you must remember I had and now have a little to say about who can come ashore and who can not. So you see it is not strange. Besides, she is only 19 & pretty as a doll in the eyes of a soldier who has been so long away from Civilization as the subscriber.

There is a possibility of a change in my shoulder straps but I don't care a red about it although all soldiers are more or less ambitious.

I do believe I owe Uncle Waters a letter but as I shall have a little peace now I shall more than make up for the lapse.

With love to all, I am as ever, your affec. Cousin,

Waters

Harrisons Landing, Virginia
August 1st, 1862

Dear Uncle:

Last night I received your letter dated July 28th and was very glad to hear from you. I had been so busy for the past month I had forgotten whether I had written last or not.

I have duty a little easier now as I come on only once in three days. I had the luck to be on last night when the Rebels treated us to Cold Iron in abundance in the shape of about 300 solid shot & shell which did some little damage in the shape of killing about a dozen men & 15 or twenty horses. The Rebels were shelling us from the opposite shore when in spite of the numerous Reports of the fact the leaders have suffered our enemies to erect their Batteries and so murder us off every night. Our Gun Boats were all up the River but we had some of the largest sized guns in the service in position on the bank of the River which responded to the Rebel 12 pdrs. with 32 pounders. The fight raged for nearly an hour & a half of the most incessant artillery firing, when sesesh skidaddled with their field pieces, and everything was quiet again. The Rebel batteries were directly opposite the mail wharf and consequently my tent & the Guard house were right in the way of secesh operations. And the first thing we knew about 1 o.c. we were treated to a volley of solid & spherical case shot which tore up the tents on both sides of mine and rattled about our ears at the guard house. This first volley wounded one of our guards in the head and the explosion of the same shot was such as to knock down two or three more & smash another of my mens guns right in his hand.

After the first few shots they seemed to elevate their guns and the shots all went over our heads and popped into the camp of the 93d and tore down whole rows of tents and fortunately did not kill anyone and but few slight wounds. Our paymaster came last night and stayed in camp but the first he knew down came the tent over his head and he left it suddenly in undress costume.

Many scenes were rather ludicrous but I think was a little the worst the Boy has seen in the shape of fighting. But still, we managed to keep our guard posted along the River bank notwithstanding the terrific showers of shot & that our posts were the very center of the target. The damage to the shipping was very small and as far as I have learned as follows:

Steamers:	Nantasket	5	shots
"	Express	1	"
"	Kent	1	"
"	Thos. A. Morgan	1	"
"	Corwin	1	"
"	Metamora	1	"

and a few schooners but not one shot to disable in any manner any one of the vessels.

That we are likely to be treated to the same luxury often is very probably if they are allowed to come down with their light arty every night, and play us a game of ball in which it is far more pleasant to pitch than to catch.

Our Paymaster has been paying off our Regt. today and as soon as I am relieved from duty I shall call on him for my little account, and shall immediately send to you by express \$150.00 which you may be expecting any day after you get this.

The position of the army is said to be a good one and bids fair to be a permanent one.

My friend D.J.K. of the New York Tribune left for Fort Monroe this morning. His letter will contain a full account of everything (as they always do) that is interesting from Harrisons Landing.

I do not know how this new law about recruiting officers will affect me nor do I care. Co. C. is the largest company in the Regt. and can just stand the whiz of those little playthings which the Rebels so much delight in, equal to anything in this part of the world.

I have had letters from Keene inquiring about William but I can furnish nothing more in the shape of information than I have already written you.

With love to Aunt Abbie, Libbie, Em, Kill Delight & the children, & Job & Cal & yourself and all,

I am as ever, your affec. Nephew,

Waters W. Braman

Harrisons Landing, Virginia
August 2d, 1862

Dear Uncle:

I have just sent you by Express one hundred & sixty (160) Dollars of which you will please credit Peter McDonald with \$18.00 and myself the balance, there will be no express charges to pay as you see it is marked "free", which I see the agent put on of his own accord, but he could well afford it, because I have shown the Co. a great many favors in the shape of guards & c.

You have doubtless seen the full particulars of the other nights affair. Yesterday there was a couple of Regts. sent over the river and ordered to burn the houses & barns which the Rebel pickets have been occupying as Rendezvous for the past month to spy out all our movements. It should have been done at least three weeks ago and Col. Butler asked permission to send the guard over and do it but was refused by those in authority and notwithstanding the fact of their being over there was several times reported to Head Qtrs. no notice was taken of them which resulted in the other nights affair which won't be likely to occur again. The Houses (some of which were very nice) & barns made a splendid light last evening. I think the days of guarding Rebel property are over at last and I hope this war will be conducted without mercy & to the very Knife till secession is no more. I am afraid I would not take very good care of the White House if I was left to guard it just now. And I am glad it has gone to ashes with all its contents although I did feel a little bad when I saw it burning as we evacuated.

I hope the news won't hinder Kill from coming down as I am sure he would never regret the journey. Those things I sent I sent by a Mr. Evens who is now in Albany, And from what I hear I think he lost some of them and kept the balance for his own especial benefit. At any rate I mean to find out. I could not get a chance or I should have sent them by Express. It was not the fear of the expense that hindered for I would sooner give \$20.00 than lose them & they were really worth more than that as I had been offered more than \$20.00 for the revolver. I suppose ere this you have the whole family together again. With love to all the folks and friends of the family and all my acquaintances, I remain as ever, in haste,

Your aff, Nephew

Waters W. Braman

Enclosed I also send rect. of Express Co.

Waters

Harrisons Landing, Virginia
August 6th, 1862

Dear Abbie:

You must excuse my not writing in answer to your letter before I did but I suppose the one I wrote to you & Libbie together is all the same for when I write to one of you it is for the benefit of all. It was hardly a fit answer to Libbie's long letter from New Haven but I will square that a/c in a day or two when something happens to make it interesting. As you doubtless know from the papers our Army had quite a fight yesterday morning and took between 5 and 6 hundred prisoners with heavy loss on both sides, but it is almost impossible for us to get the true statement of any thing that happens right here unless we see it. There are so many different stories afloat.

Our forces still occupy the other side of the River so we do not fear another treat of the same kind as the other night. We are building quite a fort over there that a small force assisted by a gun boat can hold against any force the enemy can bring there.

I have or rather shall have more leisure than I have since our army arrived at the White House. Unless they put me on some extra duty which would not be at all surprising.

We have had but little very hot weather although the thermometer shows about a hundred degrees at noon every day but we do not feel it.

The Army is daily employing more & more contrabands to do all kinds which gives the soldiers a great deal more rest. My Capt. is very sick & one 2d Lieut. is up home on the same duty so I am in sole command of the largest company in the 93d Regt. Col. Morris and adjutant Gifford are coming north on recruiting service and I have no doubt will one of them I think the adjt. call upon you.

I don't know but I may come up myself one of these days if I do it will be very sudden indeed. I recd. a letter from Carrie night before last. Never was in better health myself than at the present moment, and hope you are all in the same fix.

With love to all, Aunt, Uncle, Lib, Em, Kill, Delight, the children and all the county folks, I am as ever,

Your aff. Coz,

Waters

Harrisons Landing, Virginia
August 11th, 1862

Dear Libbie:

Still as you see at the same place but no one knows how soon we may leave, or how long we may stay. The next few days will determine whether this army is to be the army of the Potomac or be swallowed up by the other divisions of the Grand Armie. Important movements are going on. McClellan is sending a great many men from here to reinforce Genl. Burnside up the Rappahanock River and all the troops here are under marching orders to be ready at a moments warning to march but no one knows when. Either we are going to schedadle back and wait for reinforcements or else the moment McClellan has news of the rebels making any movements towards Pope or Burnside we are going to push forward and if possible take Richmond. One thing is certain, the army is ordered to be ready with five days rations and are not to be allowed to carry their Knapsacks and no Officer is to carry any baggage or even a tent. That means something. I hope we shall not have to take the back track for it would only prolong this (accursed) rebellion. I am glad to see that they are going to draft and am only sorry it was not done twelve months ago.

There is some talk here that Col. Crocker will be back to take command of the 93d again. I hope he will. There are two vacancies of Capt. in our Regt. in Cos. G & B. I don't know what chance there will be for me but I know Col. Rotch & Col. Butler will try what they can do for me & I wish Uncle Waters would get Russell Sage or some one to go down and see the Gov. I don't think there is any prospect of my coming north as I don't get sick and although I would walk at least 50 miles to see you all, I don't want to leave this army untill I see the last Rebel lay down their arms. All my charity for them is played out.

Enclosed I send a photograph of White House and also one of St. Peters Church, where Washington was married. I expect to have some on cards and also some views of the Chancel at which the ceremony took place, and the Fort where it is said Pocohontas was baptized.

Wm. has returned from Richmond and rejoined his Regiment. I saw him the evening he arrived and he was down to dinner with me day before yesterday. He feels good but looks rather tough after his visit in secessia.

The Rebels fired at one of our transports, the Elm City, yesterday, but have not treated us since the other night to any of their little love tokens. And we are not anxious on the subject. If you look at the photograph through a Stereoscope you can distinguish this individual in the center of the group on the stoop, it looks just like my picture that I sent home last. You can also see a feminine

who happened to visit the house just as the picture was taken don't you wish you had been there.

I wonder what became of a letter I wrote to Aunt Hannah when she was up to Carrie's. It was written on Rebel paper and I never heard whether it arrived or not. I am glad you had a good visit down in Connecticut and returned safe home.

I am sorry Kill has concluded not to come down, I hope he will (not) get drafted for he would have to take Em along too, and he would find a woman a nice piece of furniture in the army, especially in a march.

With love to all the family, & their friends & my friends, I remain as ever,

Your aff. Cousin

Waters

Hampton, Virginia
August 19th, 1862

Dear Cousin Abbie:

Your last was received and read with pleasure. At that time we were at "Harrisons Landing" but as you see we are now encamped over the ruins of the once pleasant city of "Hampton" about two miles from Fort Monroe. We left the "Landing" at 6 o.c. last Saturday morning the last troops ashore were the 93d and the "rebels" gave us no trouble of any kind. We came down the James River on the Steamer North America and after laying in the Harbor in front of the "fort" for 24 hours, came here and landed. We expect to stay only for a few days just as long as the Q. M. Dept. is issuing forage & Subsistance to the army at Yorktown and then we expect to go with the Q. M. Dept. around to Aquia Creek, or wherever we may be ordered. The 93d will probably continue guarding Govt. property unless there should be some change in the Command as Col. Ingalls, who is Chief Q. M. of the Army thinks the 93d is all right and would not have any other, nor would they spare the 4 Companies from Head Quarters. But no one can tell what may happen for there is a story that McClellan is to be Supperseded by Genl. Burnside and if so may make a change in the staff.

Col. Crocker & Major Cassidy returned yesterday from Richmond the Col. looks well and is going north and will probably be back to take command of the regiment, and I should not be surprised if he asked for more active service than guard duty. I hope he will for one learns nothing (perhaps he would have been active enough had he been up to the Bombardment. the other night) but the same old story, although we sail around instead of marching, and see the country.

I don't know whether I wrote or not that Col. Butler had returned and brought with him an order from the Secy. of War saying that Col. Crocker was still Col. and that Col. Butler should retain command untill his return or dismissal from the service. This created quite a stir among the bosom friends of Col. Morris, who have hung pretty close around him since his appearance on the carpet. But it made no difference, Col. Butler took command & Col. Morris left for Washington in a high state of excitement, after going to Head Qtrs. but getting no satisfaction there, as Gel. B. can not very well go behind the Order of the Secy. of War. But I do not think any one feels very bad about it today since seeing Col. Crocker who I would sooner have than all the Morris's & Butlers in creation, but I think had he remained some of the 93d would not be alive today that are now, grumbling that their duty is so hard, when they have escaped all the hardships of the battles before Richmond.

I recd. Uncle Waters letter and will answer in a day or two. I went over to Norfolk on Sunday afternoon to see the Secesh ladies hold their skirts for fear of touching a U. S. Officer. Had a good time and returned Monday morning saw Geo. Egerton and some other old acquaintances.

With love to all the folks, Aunt, Uncle, Lib, Em, Kill, Call, Job, Lyd, & Joe, Delight, Children & all friends of mine & the family, I remain as ever,

Your aff. Coz,

Waters

Hampton, Va., Augt. 24th, 1862

Dearest Em:

Here we are again within one hundred yards of where we spent the 1st night after we landed on the peninsula. Our duty here is very light as nearly all the government property is on board boats in the harbor awaiting orders. And are now having what we should have had six or eight months ago, that is, schools of Instruction for the officers, and a chance to drill the men.

Where the 93d is encamped is just on the bank of the bay, where the Southern Belles used to sport their "flounces" and promenade with their "gallants" by moonlight, but now the scene is changed "somewhat". The Church yard, near which they used to break so many hearts, is now decorated by Mother Nature with rank weeds, and by traitors hands with blackened walls, & broken toombstones, living monuments of "southern chivalry".

What the last moments of the army of the Potomac will amount to no one knows, but the whole army has already left here for Aquia Creek & we are expecting to follow them, in a day or two. There is some talk that the Q. M. Dept. will be stationed at Alexandria and if so, we shall go with them and probably stay some time. I am glad to see that the north is at last going to work in the right way. Only I think the old regiment should be filled up first as the raw recruits would learn so much quicker beside older soldiers, and be at once fit for active service, whereas it will take months for new regiments to acquire knowledge enough to be fit for any thing like fighting.

The nearer we get to Washington the more likelihood there is of my coming north and if we come to Alexandria I think you & Kill might come down to Washington and spend a few days. Give my everlasting respects to Miss Jinny, and (Sister) & Mary Joe & Tate, also Addie & the "Parrott" (I think I will wait for Addie.) I wish I could come up. If Miss Christie & myself would not beat Tate & you it would be because Tate had "First say" and no fault of ours. And I would like to see her for herself aside from the cards, but I can't very well tell her through you what I might if she wrote herself - (do you see). I am very sorry there are so many of the Kid Glove Fraternity of Troy & West Troy Enlisting that young ladies have to stay at home when invited to partake in the pleasures of a "moonlight excursion". Where on earth was Emmet and the rest, perhaps their hearts were heavy thinking of the chances of being drafted & the probability of obtaining a ticket for Canada, I pity them and (Not the ladies), the country that calls them citizens.

We are expecting Col. Crocker back to take command in a week or so's time, and I know of one that will be glad. I have very easy duty now days, tent with Col. Butler & have a horse to ride down to the Fortress and whenever I like. We have chickens, ducks, Geese, & Turkeys, plenty, and all the sweet potatoes, melons & other vegetables & fruits that we are able to send a mile or so into the country after. We are anxiously awaiting news from Popes army. I hope Eph will come safe through the battles & that with some credit to himself.

Some Sympathising friend ought to tell Bob G- to hurry up or he will lose his chance the same as he did in New York on the 17th day of July, but I am afraid I am telling stories out of school and better keep still.

Give my love to Aunt & Uncle, Lib, Abbie Delight & Children, and Cal & Job & Lyd & Joe and save a "right smart" lot for yourself & Kill.

The name of that man is Edward Evans, he stays in Albany most of the time. I never shall disturb him untill we meet - "He can't have luck" (as Pat says)--

Write often and believe me as ever,

Your aff Cousin

Waters W. Braman

Hampton, Virginia, August 28th, 1862

Dear Uncle:

I believe I owe you for two letters but they have come the same day with a letter from one of the girls so that there was not much to write about and I kept waiting in hopes to be able from day to day to inform you of our next destination. But we have as yet no orders but the whole Q. M. Dept. is being moved to Aquia Creek and that is undoubtedly the place to which we will next remove. We do not get any news here of the movements of either our own or the Rebel Army but we have plenty of rumors.

There is a story here that all the wooden buildings of which there are about 100 around Fortress Monroe are to be torn down at the end of twenty days, also all of the same in the Fort itself to ever prevent the garrison from being smoked out as they certainly would be by an enemy throwing hot shot into the Fort & setting them on fire. I don't know who they apprehend is going to do it but they want to be ready for any emergency.

If you can get one of Frank Leslie's Pictorials for Aug. 23d you will find a very good representation of the Col.'s & my own tent at Harrison's Landing. You can see my sword hanging on one of the trees and the Col. looking through a glass at the Rebel shore opposite and myself & Col. Rotch sitting at the table when we were playing a game of chess at the time the sketch was taken.

The Army of the Potomac is about all gone to Aquia Creek. Our old Division ("Picks" formerly "Caseys") is to remain here, one Brigade at Yorktown and one at New Port News and the other at Fortress Monroe or at Norfolk. Ours is to be at New Port News so if we have to join our Brigade we shall have good winter quarters but I had rather not have so good prospects as regards being comfortable and not getting killed and have the rebels thoroughly thrashed.

There is no doubt that the Southern Genls. by uniting their forces have fairly whipped our separate armies by simply taking advantage of and observing the most common rules of modern warfare but I am in hopes soon to hear from those new troops and drafted men.

There is to be another officer from our Regt. sent home on recruiting service, and I am trying to persuade Col. Butler to send me. What the result will be I can not say just now. We are making good use of our present location to drill in the skirmish field and have schools of instruction for Officers, & sergeants, which was very much needed.

My old friend "Hyde" I understand is about organizing another regt. of cavalry in New York city and I should not wonder if I got an offer from him, but I don't know

as I would be willing to leave some of the boys in the 93d Regt., especially now as Col. Crocker is likely to be back to take command in the course of a week or two. If I do hear from Hyde I will write to you immediately and learn what you think of it. I should like to go with Hyde first rate for I am sure he would push his Regiment ahead as fast as possible which would suit me to a dot.

The Regiment is at present located in a splendid and very healthy place. We have nice sea bathing and all the luxuries of the season. I wish Kill had been here to go crabbing here with me. I go every few days. It is impossible to go without getting a mess, and all the oysters and clams that are wanted when the tide is out. Also plenty of fish & c.

Give my love to Aunt, Lib, Abbie, Em, & Kill, Cal, Job, Lyd & Joe, & Delight & the Children, Mr. Kerr and all friends who enquire and believe me as ever untill death,

Your aff. Nephew

Waters . Braman

Steamer Nantasket, Potomac River
Sept. 3d, 1862

Dear Uncle:

Night before last we received orders to embark for Alexandria and have arrived there per steamer and got almost unloaded, when we were ordered to Washington, for which place we are now bound. We are ordered to rejoin with the other four companies, and are to be brigaded immediately, and shall probably see more active service than we have for any time during our existance as a regiment.

The News here is not very encouraging but I hope for the best. I have not received any of your letters for over a fortnight, as all our letters went to Head Qtrs. of the Army of the Potomac. I hope Col. Crocker will join us soon especially now as we are likely to see some sport.

As I am entirely short of news except that I am well as ever, you must excuse my not writing more. We had quite a nice sail up the Chesapeake bay & Potomac River. It was very Rough and all the Consequences followed that are attendant on sea sickness. I was lucky enough to escape but did not dare to laugh at the others for fear it would be my turn next. As usual, I came across an old friend of mine on board the boat and consequently was made at home on board, sleeping on a bed with white sheets, and the freedom of the boat besides. The way I became acquainted with him (the steward) was that I had him in the guard house while at White House, but as it was no fault of mine that he was there and as I used him like a gentleman, he only returned the compliment.

The Lord only knows where we will be when I write next, but I guess it will be all right. Give my love to all, Aunt Hannah, Abbie, Libbie, Em, Kill, Delight and the Children, Cal, Job, Lyd, Joe, and every one,

And believe me till death,

Your affec. Nephew

Waters W. Braman

Rockville, Maryland
Head Qtrs. Army of Va.
Sept. 9th, 1862

Dear Uncle:

Since writing you from the Steamer Nantasket I have recd. your letter, also one from Kill & another from Em. When we arrived in Washington we found that Genl. McClellan was to remain in Washington and our Regiment was ordered to be consolidated with the other 4 cos. and was to have been brigaded. But the Genl. was ordered in command of the whole army and has again taken the field. Of course he could not get along without the 93d and now the whole Regiment is attached to his head Qtrs. We remained in Washington for a few days and on Sunday last marched to Tenny-town and yesterday to this place. Our duty is to guard Head Qtrs. & act as Provost-Guard around Genl. Head Qtrs. I heard yesterday from Eph. He is alive and well or was day before yesterday.

If possible there is to be one officer from each company sent north on recruiting service, and if so I shall come, but not until this next fight comes off. I do not know when this will reach you as the mails do not leave regular, since secesh has made this Raid into Maryland. There is no news but what you have as soon as we do here. There is a possibility that when we march again the four companies only will remain with Head Quarters and our six return to Washington to be on duty there. Col. Crocker was with us in Washington but can not yet take command as his exchange is not yet ratified.

Probably we will have to come down from Wall Tents to Rubber blankets and sleep on the ground again, but we can stand it I think. This part of the country is splendid, and I rather think we can manage to live if any Regiment can, we have a cornfield on each side of us and plenty of Peach orchards so we will not lack of that kind of eatables and lots of chickens to be had. The inhabitants here are very different from the half starved renegades of the Peninsula, and treat us well, and seem like White Folks.

The 104th has seen pretty hard fighting in the battle of last Saturday. Lieut. Col. showed the white feather again and was taken suddenly sick when the bullets began to fly and has not yet recovered. He was in command of the Regt. at the time.

Give my love to Aunt Hannah and the girls and Em & Kill (I will write them in a day or two) and also

to all friends of the family and the young ladies who were kind enough to remember me. I hope soon to be present at a battle that will close this Campaign in a manner that secesh won't like, you have no idea of the confidence of the men in McClellan, and the enthusiasm with which he is greeted everywhere.

With love and gratitude to you, I remain as
ever,

Your aff. Nephew,

Waters W. Braman

Genl. Head Quarters, Camp near
Middleburgh, Md., Sept. 11th, 1862

Dear Em & Kill:

Both of your letters were received in course of time and read of course with pleasure. We are on the march so continually that I have almost forgotten how many letters I have received or written & think I must owe the "girls" one or two.

We have just finished a short march of 7 miles but in a terrible rain storm, and expect to move again tomorrow morning. Co. C. has been detailed to guard the commissary Dept. under command of Lieut. Col. Potter, "Com. of Subsistance" army of the Potomac. As you see by my writing from Hd. Qtrs. I am not with Co. C. which we left or rather which left us at Rockville and I am acting as adjutant to the regiment.

Our duty here is all nice and fancy but I do not like it as well as I expected although one of the most honorable in the army still it is very monotonous and the poorest place in the army to hear the news of what is going. The 93d is in splendid condition what there is of it and in their peculiar line of duty I think they are second to none in this or the regular army. There are also 4 cos. of regulars at head Quarters from whom we have learned much.

It is reported today that Col. Crocker's exchange has been ratified and I suppose he will take command immediately and probably get us brigaded, (for the fight is in him) if possible.

I have heard that Eph was well a few days ago but do not know whether the 104th is in this division of the Army as the movements are so rapid it is impossible to tell where "one" is going to sleep over night, or get any reliable information of your own whereabouts even.

We left our camp standing on Meridian Hill and perhaps shall return there. The officers had to bid good bye to wall tents and all the luxuries they have been indulging in, but as usual, being rather lucky myself, (and acting as adjutant) I had to have a tent to do the business of the regiment properly, and with one privelege took a good many more; and had all the rest of my traps brought even iron bedstead, Hair mattress and everything, so you see I am bound to be comfortable and I do think that my good health has been the result of my taking good care of and looking out for myself.

We are expecting a grand fight here in a day or two, there have immense quantities of artillery passed us on the road today, the 93d will be in hearing of the music and perhaps join in the dance, our officers are blowing so

about wanting to fight I almost wish they might be gratified, for they just think they can beat any "regulars" (They think they can lick all Keine") (This quotation is not from Shakespeare) (but some other poet), but Maj. Haller, who commands the different body guards thinks the 93d all right.

We occasionally see a few of the deluded followers of Stonewall (alias Grindstone) Jackson as all prisoners are brought to Hd. Qtrs. They begin to look good in this part of the country as they have appropriated so much of Uncle Sam's commissary stores. Thanks to the imbecility of one General and the treason of another. It would be impossible to get this army to fight under either McDowell the traitor or the incompetant Pope or any one but our own McClellan.

You should hear some of the new recruits that are in camp around Washington telling about how hard their duty is when they only come on duty once in 4 or 5 days and have tents and soft bread and the like. Wait till they have to eat Hardies for about 15 months and they will not think it so hard as they do now. I hope we shall give the Rebels an utter Rout here, for if we don't things will be rather mixed, still, the whole army is confident that under McClellan they can whip more than an equal number.

With love to Uncle and Aunt and the girls, and all the family. My respects to Miss Verginia and all the rest of the young ladies, and Kills folks and all friends of the family, I remain as ever,

Your aff. Cousin

Waters

"Em & Kill Rousseau"

Battlefield near Boonsborough
Sept. 16th, 1862

Dear Uncle & Aunt:

You must excuse this hasty scribble but our old Post-Master has just come from Washington with our mail. He is to return immediately and I don't know when I should have an opportunity of sending again, for although at Head Qtrs. we are continually on the move and within sight of the enemy, Genl. McClellan has hardly quit the saddle for the last three days, during which the fight has raged to a greater or less extent continually and we have lain all the time in sight of the fighting and among the dead and wounded.

The Rebels made a savage stand on the mountains but could not stand the savage bayonet charges of our men especially with Genl. McClellan cheering them on in person. Our whole army was in plain sight of the Rebel Genls. from the top of the mountains, so they could see every manoeuvre, but one after another their batteries were taken and turned upon themselves, their loss is three to one of ours and is terrible in killed & prisoners as all their wounded are in our hands. As I am writing the cannonading is like volleys of musketry. The wagon trains had pressed so far that they are ordered and are now passing to the rear. All this is in plain sight of the battlefield, as the Rebels make a stand on every hill but to no use. Determination is written on every countenance and we must succeed. That coat I sent by express just before we left Washington and I neglected in my last to mention it. As you say, it is valueless as a coat but I wanted to keep it and have not worn it in two months and the flies were making a roost of it. The paper I want preserved as it is the proof of the only time I was ever under arrest, which was only temporary and until I could make out a statement of the facts of the case and you see the result. If we had remained at Harrison's Landing I should have preferred charges against the gentleman by order of Col. Ingalls (which he would find not very pleasant with the Chief Qtr. Master's approval on it. Col. Ingalls is now with us at Hd. Qtrs. and is a good friend of mine. I have been on duty more under him than any one else in the army.

The Rebels have just charged our batteries but have been repulsed and are in full retreat and it is as still as death where a moment before the roars of Artillery were deafening. A shell has just killed one man and wounded another not 200 yards from where I am writing. The entire army is moving by the flank and it is a splendid sight to see the lines of skirmishers and the troops in line behind them. No one thinks of the soldiers whose young blood is flowing (in every part of the field) in -

defense of country, and its laws - each one marches on without time to think of the friend he steps over in the way - I saw Eph Regt. yesterday - four different times but did not see him he is well - he sent his compliments to me last night by one of our Lieuts. The 104 is in the fight at the present movement and I have not heard but am going forward and will see - I wish I could delay the sending of this untill I could ascertain for I know how anxious Delight & you must feel but I trust he will come out all right. I don't know but we may be ordered into the fight our guns are all loaded and if our forces are driven a quarter of a mile we must fight or skedaddle but I think secesh is in a bad fix this time.

In haste with love to all.

As ever,

Waters

I will write tomorrow.

Head Quarters Army of the Potomac
Camp near Sharpsburg, Md.,
Sept. 18th, 1862

Dear Uncle:

For the last few days we have had lively times (business had been good). More cripples and widows made than there are inhabitants in the city of Troy. The last battles have all resulted in favor of the glorious old stars and stripes, but the loss has been fearful. Some regiments have hardly enough left to form a color guard to their tattered flag. Genl. McClellan is everywhere and is fairly worshipped by the troops. I hope the northern people begin to see the risk that was run by not reinforcing the army of the Potomac on the Peninsula and the different results that might have resulted had he been reinforced at that time. I saw Eph yesterday and he stayed with me last night. His regiment suffered slightly. Eph has got two awful bad feet, from the last six weeks march and thinks of resigning and going in to the sutter business. Eph and myself rode over the battleground after our troops had driven the enemy. The sight was dreadful on the mornings field and on about a mile the sight was glorious. The cannons were blazing away right into each others mouths and every few moments a yell, a volley of musketry and we knew there was a charge. I have been out on the battle ground two or three times since. Every house is a hospital.

Friday morning, Sept. 19th, 1862

There has been no fighting of any consequence since yesterday but we are expecting the fight to begin again every moment. It is reported that the Rebels are "skedadeling" but McClellan won't let them if he can help it. Eph staid with me again last night. His feet are worse than ever this morning. He wrote to Delight last evening. He feels pretty well except his feet. The 93d is still in the same position at Hd. Qtrs. but came pretty near having a hand in the fight day before yesterday. We issued 60 Extra Rounds of ball cartidges and were in line awaiting orders to move, but McClellan's case is far from being at such a state that anyone regiment (even the 93d) is required to turn the tide of battle. Reinforcements are arriving for us and I have no doubt for the Rebs also, and this fight will be a terrible one, and probably a very decisive one also.

We do not get any mail at all for the past few days. If we whip the Rebels today and tomorrow we shall probably be in Washington within a fortnight, Col. Crocker has not yet reported for duty, I should not wonder if he was figuring in Washington for a * on his shoulder straps. It is reported that Major Cassidy has been appointed Lieut. Col. of one of the new regiments, another instance of the

the corruptness of the administration at Albany still
I am glad he has been promoted out of our Regiment although
he never did us any good or any harm, nor do I believe he
will to the new Regiment.

We have four vacancies, or rather we have two
and probably will have two more by the time we arrive in
Washington. Co. D. has not yet rejoined the regiment and I
should not be surprised if they were a permanent detail for
this campaign.

Give my love to Aunt, Lib, Abbie, Delight and
the Children, Em, Kill, Cal, Job, Lyd, & Joe, and all friends
of the family, and believe me as ever,

Your aff. Nephew,

Waters W. Braman

P.S. Why don't either of the girls write, I have not
had a letter from them in a month and over.

Waters

Camp near Sharpsburgh, Md.
Sept. 25th, 1862

Dear Libbie:

Yesterday I received your letter from Union Village and this morning one from you dated at Troy, but have not yet had the pleasure of reading that other one that has not yet arrived, and I surely have written often enough to some of the family. The only one I can afford to write to is Uncle Waters, without waiting to think whether he owes me one or I owe him three or four, for I have kept him pretty well posted, and a letter to him I am sure you all get the benefit of, but still I think I can keep you all agoing, excepting on the march, for then we don't get a mail oftener than once a week, and then you see get three or four letters and no time to answer them. But now our letters come with Hd. Qtrs. and we shall get them hereafter every day. About my friend "Evans", "Major & c", he never was even "Drum Major" but only Chief Musician he never would be mustered into the service, and so when pay day came he could not draw any pay from Government & the officers who were willing paid him, and they disliked him so much he was told he had better leave, & Left. One little incident I can but mention. One Sgt. Baine of Co. I died on the same boat with him, and the Lieut. of Co. I. gave him \$35.00 to have the body emblamed, which he did and then told "Billy Baines" folks who live in Argyle that he had paid it himself and got the money again from them. I could mention a number of other circumstances but the subject is unpleasant. He has promised me by letter to take pistol & Belt up and give it to "Kill" but insists that he lost the other things.

Give my respects to all the friends in Union Village when you write.

It seems to me the North are mighty hard to please. If McClellan whips the rebels they think he should have captured the Rebel Congress. Anyone that thinks they can beat him let them try. I am sure that has been pretty well investigated and proved by the last battle of "Mannassas" and "Bull Run". If the fault finding "Traitors" could only see McClellan ride past a "Division in Line" perhaps just about to enter the fight and just hear them cheer, why it seems as if every man vowed in his heart to the great General of the Universe to do his best or die and I think if that same unsatisfied traitor, Abolitionist or what if he could only pluck up courage enough to go over the battle field about 24 hours after I think he would be converted. Truly it is a terrible sight. The "body" black and in every imaginable contortion, some loading their guns some on their knees behind a fence, and all more or less bloated and horribly disfigured. I think I can smell them even

now. When the work of "burying" got too disagreeable for our men the secesh prisoners were made to dig the graves of their late comrades. They look better with a shovel in their hands than with a gun. Great as has been McClellans victory, there is no telling how it would have resulted had the Rebels another reserve. Our troops were all ready to continue the fight on Thursday morning but those who knew better than you or I did not see fit to bring on a general engagement. It is not certain but we may catch a big portion of their army yet. If we don't it will be no fault of McClellans.

The G-a-l-l-i-a-n-t 93d still snuffs the battle from afar. That is about a mile or so (if it is a safe place). I have not seen Eph since leaving "Kudysville" rather think perhaps he snuffs the same wind that the 93d does and acts accordingly. He was in pretty bad shape for marching when I saw him.

Col. Butler has got an order to send recruiting officers home, but objects to doing so in the face of the enemy and has obtained permission to send them when he sees fit, which will be when this campaign is over and the army goes into winter qtrs. If nothing happens I shall probably be one of the party but not for certain, and something may happen in a few days and you see me before you know it. With love to Aunt & Uncle, Abbie, Em, Kill, Delight & Chil., and all, my respects to Mr. Kerr, Alexander and all friends of the family, I remain as ever,

with much love

Waters.

Will write to Abbie tomorrow.

W.

Head Quarters 93d N. Y. V.
Camp near Antietam, Md.
September 30th, 1862

Dear Cousin Abbie:

I received a letter from you on the same day as Libbie's was recd. and as I had written double-headed letters two or three times I thought I would wait a day or so in hopes of having something interesting to write about. We were then encamped near the village of Sharpsburgh and are now only about three miles from that place towards Harpers Ferry. We see the troops moving every day but are totally unacquainted with the object of any of the movements for the past four or five days and of the whereabouts of the redoubtable Stonewall. We are in the poorest place in the whole army to ascertain or anything of the kind. It is just like being in the city of Washington and waiting for New York papers for the city news.

We have lots of duty to keep us busy and what suits me we have Major Halter, the Commandant of Head Quarters to drill us and a company of "regulars" (that is with us on duty) in the "Battalion Drill" and there are a great many little "Ideas" about the guides & c. that it is impossible to learn from the books. And as the Major has his office right in my tent I can ask him any questions about the drill. The Major is a splendidly drilled officer having been in the "service" at least thirty years, and it is a great privilege to get the benefit of his knowledge. He is the "Boss" around Head Quarters and I notice I keep on the right side of the Major and make out his reports in good style once in a while, about which he is an awful old "fudge".

The Regulars can't beat the 93d much on drill and they don't pretend to think they can. The recruiting officers consisting of the adjutant and two seargents have some of them had pretty good luck, and have been ordered back to the regiment with what men they have got.

We have been expecting to return to Washington before this time and I have no doubt our regiment will spend the winter on duty in that city as we were ordered and did leave our camp on Meridian Hill all standing untill our return. And it makes a good place for our convalescant soldiers returning from the "Hospitals" to stop untill they get able to join the regiment. Col. Crocker is there in camp and I don't see why he does not come to the regiment. There is some sharp figuring going on about something I guess Lieut. Moore and one of our capt. (Johnson) are sick there and also our Quarter master.

This is a splendid country, we can buy fresh "bread", "pies" and all such things at almost every house and the people seem to be "union". Especially since they have seen the secesh army "face to face". I shall probably be writing home in a few weeks (unless I come myself, which is very probable) for some woolen socks and some more Handkerchiefs (silk) and perhaps a woolen shirt or two, and if we are to be in Washington for my over-coat. Give my love to Em & Kill & my respects to Jennie, Christie, and the other young ladies and much love to Aunt Uncle, Lib Delight & the Children, the folks in Washington County and yourself and all friends,

I remain as ever,

Your aff. Cousin

Waters.

The weather has been splendid but it is getting to be the season for wet & mud in this country and you need not be surprised to hear we have gone into winter quarters.

Waters.

Camp of 93d Regt. N.Y.S.V. Oct. 5th, 1862
"MORGAN RIFLES"

My dear Aunt:

I received Uncle's letter of the 29th yesterday, it was detained in consequence of being received by the Company at Rockville but the Capt. sent it up the first chance. I am glad to hear that Uncle's & your own health has been good. I think your trip north did you good and hope you will have the pleasure's of the trip renewed another season and a good many seasons. As for myself I am & have been very well indeed and tough as a "pine knot" for which I am very thankful. The Army is no place for a weak constitution, it is more apt to ruin a good one. But I always take care of myself and Co. C.. The Company has been at Rockville ever since we left that place and have had splendid fare. They are now on the March after us and I expect them tomorrow. I sometimes wish I had stayed with them, they had such good times, but I would not miss seeing what we have for the world.

Col. Crocker has taken command of the Regt. and is now with us. I think my chance of coming home is pretty slim just now, since he has come, for he thinks it best to send home those whose services can best be spared in the regiment and as the prospect now is (The government have been sending great quantities of troops this way lately) that we shall begin another campaign towards Richmond and I would not like to be away if there is to be an active campaign. I would like to come north for a few days & see you all, but do not think recruiting service equal to being in the field. Still, if I do get the chance you may expect me. Our Regt. is improving very fast in discipline and I think they will continue with Head Qtrs. certainly for this campaign.

Head Quarters is to move to Harpers Ferry tomorrow and if Uncle Waters could come down he could come there as easy as to go to Washington (via Baltimore). The only trouble would be getting the "Provost Marshall's pass" which he probably could get unless there were quantities of troops moving over the road and I should be wonderfully glad to see him and could make him as comfortable (in our way) as possible in camp.

The Regt. is to be paid off next week. We have been very fortunate in this respect as there are some regiments with 5 or 6 months pay due. I think until further orders you had better direct your letters to me as follows:

Lieut. Waters W. Braman
Head Quarters Genl. McClellan
Army of the Potomac.

without putting the number of the Regiment on at all or
I don't know but you might as well too, for then it would
come one way or the other. With love to Em, Kill, Lib,
Abbie, Delight, Children, and all the folks in Union
Village & friends of the family,

I remain as ever,

Waters.

Headquarters 93d Regt. N.Y.V.
Camp near Knoxville, Md.
October 9th, 1862

My Dear Em:

Your last (I forget the date) was received as usual with pleasure. About that "Girl" Kill did not go to see, I suppose Bob has told some curious stories to match the Union Village stories. I wish Kill had went. I fear he would have been disappointed but I can't say as I have not heard from N. Y. for the last three or four months, not since my last letter from Bob which was so long ago that I can not remember to within a month or two of the date. I am sorry Bob is sick. I wrote to him about a week before I received your letter. We were then at Sharpsburgh but yesterday we came across the mountains to this place. We are encamped on the road from Frederick City to Harpers Ferry about 5 miles from the latter place and about 2 miles from Knoxville and if Uncle or Kill wanted to come down now would be just the time as they could come to within 2 miles of us by Rail Road in about 48 hours ride from Troy. I do wish Uncle Waters would come. He could come to Baltimore and then take the road to Harpers Ferry & Knoxville is about three miles this side that place and there is a Rail Road station there.

I do not know why we came here as it is directly on the road back to Washington and every step we marched yesterday was so much nearer that place. I suppose we are waiting for some movement down on the Peninsula. There is a story here that Gen. Halleck is to take command of the army in the south west, that McClellan is to replace Halleck as secy. of War & c. & that Gen. Hooker is to take command of the army of the Potomac.

Mrs. McClellan is in camp and the Genl. has his Hd Qtrs. in a house near the camp. The chances of my coming home recruiting are pretty poor just at present, and I don't know as I should fancy the business much & I think I should be home sick to get back, after I had been home about two weeks.

We are to have a grand review of the HdQuarter Guards, tomorrow, by Genl. Patrick who comes to take the place of Genl. Andrew Porter, as Provost Marshall Genl. We expect a grand affair. I am sorry all the young folks are going from next door. It would be so pleasant for you if the Christies were to stay all winter but you will surely miss Tate so much. Give my love to all the folks over home and to Cal & Job and all. I wish Kill would come down and you too. There is a Hotel here if you did not like

camp life. And I think I could make you both as comfortable in camp as you would be at the village. I think we shall stay here or at Harpers Ferry for some weeks and possibly go back to Washington at the end of the time.

yourself, Love to all the young ladies and Kill and
Waters

Hd. Qtrs. N. Y. Vol. 93d
Camp near Knoxville
October 17th, 1862

Dear Libbie:

Yours of the 2nd and Uncles of the 9th arrived by yesterdays mail. It was the first mail we had received in a fortnight but expect to receive it more regularly henceforth. I should have written before but I was daily expecting the mail to arrive, and I was sure of a letter or two and intending to answer as soon as received but if there had been any more I should have written to Uncle Waters without waiting for any mail.

I think I wrote from camp near Knoxville in my last, we are now about 6 miles from that camp across the mountains but about 3 miles from Knoxville still. I suppose we moved because Stewarts Cavalry passed so near that it was thought safer to be here near Burnsides Corps. We laugh a good deal about our rallying on a "Corps de armie".

There was quite a little fight just over the river yesterday, but I think it was only an armed Reconoisance to ascertain the position and force of the enemy, preparatory to a grand move in a day or so. I heard some heavy guns just at dark, and should not be surprised if there was a general engagement tomorrow, as Genl. McClellan has been over the river for the past few days, which means something.

Our Army is in fine condition and splendid discipline, all stragglers are sent to work on the fortifications at Harpers Ferry. The 93d continue their daily drills and have received the compliments of more than one general for their fine appearance and good discipline during the past week.

The Adjutant has not yet returned and there is a great deal of dissatisfaction about the manner in which he has conducted the business he has been on. I expect to go to Washington tomorrow on business for the regiment which three or four officers tried to do and now the Col. is going to send me. It will be my first absence from the regiment since leaving the state of New York and the Col. hates to let me go now, and may change his mind before morning as it is. I have been very busy lately as I have had to straighten out the whole of the Adjutants department since the regiment has been in service. It was in a terrible state of disorder, in fact, we are only now learning our duties as officers when we thought we knew it all before we left Albany.

If I go to the city tomorrow and can draw my pay I am going to get a new dress uniform. The Col. has decided to send recruiting officers home as soon as the Adjutant returns. I do not know who the lucky ones will be for as you can imagine there are plenty of applicants for the favor.

I am sorry to learn of Em's sickness and trust she is well ere this, she would be if any wish of mine could accomplish it.

With much love to Uncle, Aunt, Em, Kill Abbie and all, I am as ever your aff. cousin,

In haste

Waters

P.S. Will write to Uncle Waters tomorrow and if possible try and learn something of Eph.

W.

Head Quarters 93d N. Y. Vol.
Knoxville, Md. October 19th, 1862

Dear Uncle:

Today seems the most like Sunday of any day for the past year and naturally makes one think of home. I expected to have gone to Washington yesterday on business for the Regiment but could not get the necessary orders in time and am going tomorrow in the 2 o.c. train from Knoxville. I wish some of you could come down. I should be glad to see you. As I shall stay three or four days why could you not come down for a day or so. I dont think I shall leave Washington in return before Thursday morning and perhaps not then as the order says to return when the business is finished. But Genl. Williams has confidence enough to know that I will not take any advantage of that fact to prolong my stay beyond a reasonable time and I shall be pretty busy and will not have much time to lose. The Col. could have sent others that he could have spared better and in fact I had given up my chance to another but the Col. could not see it, for said he, if they got their pay they would not return untill they spent it all.

I expect to draw my pay, while down, and get a suit of clothes, and if you dont come down shall send the balance by express, I have heard nothing of Ephriam since leaving Sharpsburgh and the last was that he was well and with the regiment. He told me that the 104th had six months pay due or would have the end of this month and I dont think they have been paid yet.

All that I had heard about his resigning was what he told me that he talked of resigning and taking the sutlers-ship of the regiment or some other. Capt. Seleck was under arrest at the time and talked of resigning also. I advised Eph not to resign as it would only make talk, and he said he knew it would be in Troy before the resignation was accepted, and I do not think he has resigned yet. He appeared to like the life of a soldier well enough, but you know he never could be contented long in one place. I hope he will continue in the service for I think he would make a good officer in time & I should judge from his conversation that he had studied considerable and appeared to understand himself pretty well, better than I ever expected. I am not at all surprised at Tom Johnstons enmity for I know Eph detests the sight of him and I dont know as I blame him much.

I recd a letter from Abbie in the Hd Qtrs. mail today and I think in future all letters had better be directed so, although we get a regimental mail now every day.

I regret to hear of Emma's sickness and wish
I could come up if only to see her and the rest of the
folks. With love to Aunt, Em, Kill, Abbie, Libbie, Call,
Job, Lyd, Joe & all, As ever till death,

Your aff. Nephew,

Waters W. Braman

Office of the
Adams Express Company
Washington, D. C.

October 24th, 1862

Dear Uncle:

I arrived here last Monday evening and have been busy collecting convalescents, returned prisoners, & c. of our Regt. And have been very busy or I should have written to Abbie in answer to her last. I shall start in the 7:30 for Head Qtrs. train in the morning and will write to her tomorrow night. Enclosed I send One hundred & Twenty \$120.00 Dollars. I invested about \$60. in clothes and under clothes. I might send more, as I have about two months pay due now, which I shall get within a fortnight. The Paymaster would have went up and paid the regiment before but he has been dangerously sick and now he is going to pay them 4 months pay when he does go up. I got my pay for two mds. on the order sending me down here, as it is only those on detached service who can draw their pay before the Regt. is paid off.

I wish you would send me a statement of how much money I have sent as I have lost my book. Not very business like, is it.

Give my love to Aunt, Abbie, Libbie, Em, Kill, Job, Carrie, Joe Lyd, & all friends of the family, and believe me as ever,

Your aff. Nephew

Waters W. Braman

Head Quarters 93d N. Y. V.
Camp near Berlin, Md.
Oct. 29th, 1862

Dear Cousin Abbie:

It is some time since I recd your letter to be sure but I was just going to Washington when it arrived and thought I would write from there and when there thought I would write on my return as I would have more news to write. The day I returned we moved, and yesterday came here. We are now on the banks of the Potomac about 6 miles below Harpers Ferry. Burnsidess Corps, Banks & Sumners have crossed the Pontoon Bridge at this place and Hookers Corps. will cross tomorrow. And from the talk in Washington I think McClellan is going to make a bold push for Richmond before the close of the campaign and if he succeeds it will satisfy the North, in regard-s to her desire for a winter campaign.

I had a very busy time in Washington but did not return untill Monday morning, so you Uncle might have come down and seen me but then he might not have found me as I did not sleep in the same place two nights, for I camped just where I happened to be, let it be Alexandria or where.

Eph staid with me last night. I will write particulars in a letter to Uncle Waters. The nights have been pretty severe for the past fortnight, but I purchased a good lot of warm clothes in Washington and have an overcoat that I brought from Harrisons Landing that will do unless we get into winter qtrs. and then I think I will get my dress overcoat sent down. I bought more than I intended when I went down and when I sent my money home but not more than I find I need, and I guess my money will hold out untill next pay day which will be soon. I have also a letter from Libbie today. The story about some of our men enlisting in the cavalry is true, there did 37 enlist in the 2nd Regular Cavalry attached to Hd Qtrs during the excitement but now they have cooled off there is no danger of any more going. There were ten of company C went, Pat McGee among the others but we have had six new recruits come so the Company remains about the same and there is no danger of consolidation or anything of the kind. If twenty more were to go. Pat was the only one of my men who went and he only went because the Capt. was rather hard on him for his last spree in Washington. He says he never would have left the company if I had been our Capt. I would not care if the whole company left for I think I could do full as well if not better but there are some very nice boys in the Company who think I am all right.

Give my love to Aunt, Em, Kill Libbie, and Uncle and all the young ladies of the family, acquaintance and all friends and believe me as ever, your affec. cousin,

Waters

Hd Quarters 93d N.Y.V.
Camp on Potomac, Md.
Octo. 29th, 1862

Dear Uncle:

I have just written to Abbie but have just received yours & thought in as much as I had seen Eph thought I would write you all particulars as you were so anxious to learn of him. His Corps (Hookers) came from beyond Sharpsburgh yesterday and they are now lying only about a quarter of a mile from us. Both he and Jim Selleck staid with me last night, and to breakfast this morning. Eph has been pretty sick with Disinterry but said to tell Delight he was very well now and feels as well as he has since in the army. I think he will give up his idea of resigning although he has tried three times and the General would not accept. He has six months pay due him the end of this month and their paymaster (Major Burt) is expected soon, and if he does not leave the service then I think he will stay in all winter. Lieut. _____ has turned out a regular drunkard and is now under arrest for being drunk on Picket and that is a pretty serious offence, better be a natural coward than a confirmed drunkard in the army. You need not fear for me as it is proverbial about my not drinking which I am sorry to say is verry common in the army. Many a mother will have reason to mourn over a son with more than one vice contracted in the army.

Some of our men took a sudden start and led by two or three in each company took advantage of an order of the War Department to enlist in the regulars, but McClellan has put a stop to it, by another order. I would not care if all of Co. "C" had gone although all who did go said they would not go if I was in command off the Company. The Captain is a very good man but is religiously strict with the men, being a very abstemious man himself, he makes all toe the mark and so of course had a couple of men not very well disposed who influenced the others of the same stamp. Still with our recruits we still have the largest company in the regiment.

I think by the different moves that the whole army will make a grand push for the rebel capitol and that immediately. I think we shall cross the River tomorrow There were 4 or 5 regiments arriving in Washington daily and they were all being sent to join Seigel and I should not be surprised if a force was sent down on the Peninsula this winter. The north seems to be so clamorous for winter campaign that I think they will be gratified at all hazards.

With love to all I remain as ever,

Your aff. Nephew,

Waters W. Braman

Camp near Berlin, Md.
October 31st, 1862

Dear Libbie:

Today has been a very busy one, it being the last day of the month and also the day on which the whole army has to be mustered for pay. So we have had a grand inspection and muster by Major Haller.

The Entire Army Corps of Burnside, Banks, Sumner & Hooker have all crossed the River into Va. yesterday and today, and we expect to go tomorrow and are ordered to take ten days rations, sixty rounds of ammunition and to leave all surplus baggage behind in the shape of tents, & c., but you know the adjt. must have a tent to do all the business of the regiment in, so I guess I shall get along comfortably as any of them. We shall no doubt push on for Richmond this winter, as the north seems to desire it and the army is more desirous if it is possible or practicable to keep moving as long as they have McClellan to lead them. If the North for some mistaken notion should ever supercede him in any manner attended with disgrace the first thing they would have to do would be to raise and equip an army to whip this one. I am afraid if they should be so foolish they would get a winter campaign that they would not like. But if President Lincoln should say to the army, The Country needs McClellan's services in another Department or at the head of the army of the United States and Gen. Hooker or some other man in whom they had confidence (not McDowall or Fremont) the army would say it is all right, go ahead old man, the entire army endorses Honest Old Abe in every particular without regard to party.

We heard today that Major Cassidy was dead, but I think it is only a rumor without foundation in truth. I may possibly come home this winter but I dont see it just now, and wont unless I get a chance. Eph's regiment passed over the river yesterday. He had bought a horse and I gave him my secesh saddle and I think he will try it another spell. He was feeling very well and wished to be remembered to you all, and to tell Delight that he was as well as ever in the army, but was sick when he wrote to her.

Give my love to Em and tell her to write soon also to Aunt, Uncle, Abbie, Delight & the children and all the folks up in Union Village, Call, Job, Lyd, Joe tell Cally she may have written but I have not recd any letter from her but will write soon myself, with love & c I remain as ever,

Your aff. cousin

Waters

Adjts. Office, 93d Regt. N.Y.V.
Camp near Warrenton, Va.
November 11th, 1862

Dear Libbie:

The past few days have been eventful ones in the army of the Potomac. One day we were marching on to meet the foe with every prospect of success and the downfall of the Rebel Capitol, the next our favorite General is disgraced and insulted to satisfy the Black Republicans of the north who frightened by the recent elections fear that if McClellan should take Richmond it would make him the next President and they lose the power. And if he should take it there would have been a fair prospect of settling the war, and restoring the union under the old constitution which they dont want. They would rather prolong the war for years and sacrifice the lives of thousands of noble men, so it resulted in the success of their pet scheme of the downfall of slavery than to have the old union and the old constitution restored. The greatest excitement prevails in the Army and but for the most strenuous exertions of McClellan (since receiving the order disgracing him and ordering him to report to Mrs. McClellan) has prevented them from open revolt. As it is reported here that the Irish brigade have laid down their arms and all the officers resigned. All the officers here would do it but for regard to the feelings of Mc & Burnside and it is not certain but they will as it is. If it once gets started and begins to be the fashion they will all follow it. Yesterday McClellan & Burnside reviewed the troops beginning with those at Hd. Qtrs. and it was the most imposing sight I ever witnessed. The whole force at every point yelled for him to stay and it is said that Burnside almost cried a number of times during the day. We are to be reviewed in a few minutes by Genl. Patrick the Provost Marshall Genl. and I must stop writing untill it is over. The Review was by Genl. Burnside on taking command of the army. I wish you were here to see the 93d they looked splendid and recd a compliment from the General. The whole army like him not only for his ability but for his friendship for McClellan. All the officers at Hd Qtrs. are to remain as before except the personal staff of the Genl. The 93d is also to remain as before, and is thought by the officers who know to be one of the best drilled regiments in the service. & not inferior to the regulars, at any rate they looked better than the Regulars this morning.

This Campaign is necessarily delayed for weeks and I do not think we shall accomplish anything this winter as the matter stands now. The disgrace of McClellan must have been good news to Jeff Davis but it is sad news to the heart of every soldier in this army.

Enclosed I send McClellan's farewell address to the army. I wish you would get me a couple of big silk handkerchiefs and send them by mail, get the money from Uncle Waters. (Send dark colored ones), and tell him I wish he would send me 25 postage stamps as it is impossible to get them here & I am obliged to certify to this letter. I hear cannonading and should not be surprised if the rebels were attacking us on the strength of McClellans removal.

With love to Uncle, Aunt, Abbie, Delight & children and Em & Kill I am as ever,

Your aff. cousin

Waters

HdQuarters Army of the Potomac
Camp near Rectortown V.a. Nov 7/62

Officers & Soldiers of the
Army of the Potomac

An Order of the President devolves upon Major General Burnside
the command of this Army.

In parting from you I cannot express the love and gratitude
I bear you. As an Army you have grown up under my care. In you I
have never found doubt or coldness. The battles you have fought under
my command will proudly live in our nations history. The glory you
have achieved, our mutual perils and fatigues, the graves of our
comrades fallen in battle, and by disease - the broken forms of
those whom wounds and sickness have disabled, the strongest associa-
tions which can exist among men unite us still by an indissoluble
tie. We shall ever be comrades in supporting the constitution of our
country and the nationality of its people.

GEO. B. McCLELLAN
MAJOR GENL U. S. A.

Adjts. Office 93d N. Y. V.
Camp near Warrenton, Va.
November 14th, 1862

My dear Em:

The mails have been delayed very much lately, so your letter of the 7th arrived only today. I was glad to hear again direct from you, as I am now certain you are perfectly well again and enjoying yourself as usual. I wish I could come home for a few days to see you and all the folks, but I think I should get homesick, for I should fear that every one I met would think I might better be down here, than around home. If there had been any honor in certain persons in this regiment I should have come home last week in company with Col. Butler in place of another Lieut who never did anything but shirk what duty he had fall to him. They could acknowledge that if any one went I was entitled to go, but then I could not be spared as well as some one else, especially untill after the return of the Adjut and then I might expect a chance. That unfortunate gentlemen the adjt. has this day made his appearance to the 93d again, I pity him on drill in a day or two after the Jamor gets a little acquainted so as to bless him slightly in his happy way.

I expect to continue to assist the Adjut. for a few days untill he gets a little broken in again, and then return to Co. "C" duty, but should not be at all surprised if detailed on some permanent duty at Hd. Qtrs. within a week. I will have a chance to try the renewed promises of the powers that be in regard to coming home for a few days (after the return of the adjutant), but you need not expect me, for I shall come on a sudden when I do. I think I will come by the way of West Troy and surprise you one of these nights. I would sooner see you this minute than Miss (you know) the cousin of Josei, and dont think I should make a very long stay in New York, hardly longer than to get to the Troy Boat, especially since the Maiden Fair has made a change of base (so I am credibly informed) and is just now in the land of Steady Habits & wooden nutmegs, viz. Conn, under the watchful care of her Mama, a good safe place aint it.

I saw today or rather received a visit in camp from Frank Brownell I should have said Lieut. & c., also Lieut Chas. Kenny who used to be in Yale & Aldens law office and a member of the Ellesworths, now an aid to Genl. Duryea. Frank looked very well. I wrote Bob about a month ago at the same time I did Kill and Hope they both will answer.

With much love to Kill, Uncle, Aunt, Abbie, Lib, Delight & Children, Carrie, & Job, Lyd, Joe, and all

friends of the family, and lots of Love for yourself,
I remain as ever,

Your aff. coz

Waters

Excuse this being certified to but I cant raise a postage
stamp in camp, lucky I dont correspond with the Cousin
aint it.

W

Hd Qtrs. 93d N. Y. Vols.
Camp near Warrenton, Va.
November 15th, 1862

My dear Uncle:

To pay for a long delay we received two mails yesterday and I recd a letter from Em in the evening. They were both very welcome for they had been anxiously looked for, and it was a common remark about Camp "When are we ever going to get any mail again", so we were all on the lookout for just one week. The Adjutant arrived yesterday and will enter upon his duties under my protecting arm and watchful eye in a few days. And I shall have a chance to try the promise of the Colonel in regard to coming north. The excitement in the Army is gradually wearing off and an anxiety to winter in Richmond if possible is showing itself, but I much fear the grand army of the Potomac will soon retire to Roost for the winter. Genl. Burnside seems to take right hold but apparently his hands are tied by a piece of red tape from Washington and he must await their beck & nod ere he dare stir, or off goes his head into the lap of Mrs. B-----, fine thing aint it. Probably it only cost the north a few millions to remove McClellan, for my part I am glad the way the elections have gone and dont expect to see much done until after the 4th of March next and a Democratic congress tried their hand at it.

It is a pity Lincoln had not the spunk to put Fremont in place of McClellan at once and save doing it in a few months from now. It is what the Blk. Republicans are driving him to do, but all this can not be very interesting to you as you must have had enough of politics lately, but it is well enough to know how the army does feel on the subject, the speach makers seem to have some curious ideas about the army. I wish they would try it awhile then they could speak from experience.

The Account I think is all straight. I have not paid as much attention to it as I ought for I knew it was in good hands and I could get a statement any time. The Adjt. says the Paymaster said he would be along about the 25th of this month and I shall then make a large addition to the account as I have a full stock of clothing to last me this winter.

I saw Eph a few days ago just long enough to say "how are you" as we passed them. He was well. I am sorry you have those dizzy turns and fear you work too hard and let the business fret you too much and trust you will soon recover entirely. I should think you had made money

enough and could afford to settle down and enjoy yourself for the rest of your days, which I hope will be many happy ones.

With love to Aunt, Abbie, Libbie, Delight and the Children, Em, Kill, Carrie, Job, Joe, Lyd, and Aunt Hat and all friends of the family, in Troy and Washington County, and respect & gratitude to yourself to whom I owe all I am, I remain as ever,

Your affectionate Nephew,

Waters W. Braman

Camp of the 93d Regt. N. Y. V.
near Falmouth, Va., Nov. 22d, 1862

Dear Uncle:

Delays in the mail are not unusual nowadays, so your letter of the 14th arrived only today. The \$20. Green Back was all right & if you have not sent the others you need not, as we expect to get our pay at this place within a fortnight. We have had splendid weather except the last two days which have been very wet & cold, we were on the march every day from Warrenton and arrived here day before yesterday. This place is opposite Fredricksburgh & we can see and converse with the Rebel Pickets very easily. The town is virtually in our possession as our batteries from the high ground on this side, command the place for miles around. The Rebels are in force over the river and I expect tomorrow will open one of the Biggest fights of the war. We have only been waiting for supplies to begin the dance.

The two days rain have made the roads very bad indeed but I guess we will go ahead (providing secesh is willing) notwithstanding but you must know that it takes no small amount of transportation to bring supplies to such an immense army, and men & horses cant do without food. The army is in good spirits and are confident in the success of Burnside. And I really hope he may be successful in the taking of Richmond, before any thought of winter quarters enters his head. Our Head Quarters is encamped right in plain sight of the Rebel camp fires, and we expect to move about a quarter of a mile in the morning to get out of range of our own and the enemy's batteries which can be seen plainly from camp. If the fight opens by an artillery duel we shall have a fine sight of it. We have an occasional deserter come across on the rocks (the river is about as wide as the lower ferry way) which can be done very easily by running the gauntlet of both lines of Pickets.

By the special request of Genl. McClellan to Genl. Burnside, the 93d is to remain at Hd Qtrs. and the General seems to be well pleased with the style and manner in which the Regiment do their duty. The same day I wrote you last he invited all the officers of the Regt. up to his tent and they were all introduced, shook hands and had quite a little talk. I am certain we shall remain as before and if anything enjoy more priveleges even than before.

I have not as yet returned to the Company but am intending to do so soon but the Col. wishes me to remain with him untill the return of Col. Butler from the north which will not be under a month. & I dont know but

it will be fully as pleasant to ride on this forced march to Richmond as to walk in the mud. My health has been splendid, have not seen a sick moment since leaving White House, not even the sick headache, but I have always taken good care of myself and although constantly on duty I think I have had almost as pleasant a time of it as any other officer in this army, at any rate I am very thankful for my good health and general good luck in the army.

I have not seen anything of Ephraim since writing to you last but think he is all right. The last time I did see him he said he had six months pay due and they were expecting their paymaster soon, but do not think they have been paid yet.

One of our captains (Wilson) a brother of Capt. Wilson of the 2d, is going north tomorrow on a short furlough and I am in hopes my turn will come soon.

Give my respects to Mr. Kerr and all the Park Church folks and friends of the family, and with much love to Aunt, Em, Kill, Abbie, Libbie, Delight the Children, Carrie, Job, Lyd, Joe, & All, remember me kindly to any of those young ladies who may chance to enquire for me (The Deacon's Daughter and the rest of the fair Damsels).

If we have a fight I will write you the result immediately and when we are to go forward towards the Rebel city of Richmond. I trust it will be soon & I be fortunate enough to get a furlough from that place.

Believe me as ever,

Your aff. Nephew,

Waters W. Braman

Camp of 93d N. Y. Vol.
Near Falmouth, Va.
November 27th, 1862

Dear Libbie:

I wish you all a merry thanksgiving. In consequence of which all important day there has been no drills or parade today. And everything is so still that it would be very difficult to make any one (not certain of the fact) believe that there were between two & three hundred thousand men all armed and equipped for war within a circle of five miles of which the 93d is the center, safe place.

Your letter containing the Postage stamps and those most necessary articles (on a cold & windy day) made its welcome appearance two or three days ago. The answering was delayed in hopes of something interesting to write about. But here in camp one day is so like another that a change of some kind is always welcomed and the rumor of an advance (even though it were contradicted within the hour) is hailed with delight. The true soldier lives by excitement and the different movements of troops and their necessary accompaniments of trains, which would astonish an outsider and were deemed sights by us on our first advent at the seat of war, now pass unnoticed by the old regiments. We have just about enough Artillery firing every day to remind us of the close proximity of our not over pleasant neighbors, and are all anxiously waiting and wondering why we dont go on. The pontoons are all here, enough to bridge the Rappahanock a dozen times, the Rail road is in full operation, supplies are plenty and still we wait, and have to conjure up all sorts of stories to account for it. The rumor which passes current here is that government is about sending troops to attack Richmond by the way of James River and that we are to wait for the waggon and then go with a rush.

But all these are rumors and in a dozen hours there are as many different ones, and in the afternoon a fellow dont believe the ones he helped to start in the morning.

And so the Deacon's Daughter is married is she. Poor Fellow, his troubles are all to come. He might better have enlisted in a cause that would have been some credit to him. It is just like the giddy headed young lady and does not surprise me in the least. I shall expect to hear you are gone too one of these days. Married life is rather confining, at least I find it so since I married Uncle Sam and cant get away at all.

We have fine weather, just about cold enough to make a fire comfortable and drilling pleasant. There was a brick yard near our camp which disappeared very

suddenly, at least the bricks did. They were taken into the Union on the same plan as the Rail fences have been. And there are few tents in the 93d that cannot boast its chimney and fireplace. The fact is so notorious that architects from the 93d are in daily demand to engineer similar ones at Hd. Qtrs.

We had thanksgiving dinner in fine style for camp life. Perhaps not so elaborate as would be given by Aunt Hannah but quite a success in camp.

I am under a great many obligations to you for the handkerchiefs and stamps and to all for their many kind acts, which a soldier knows full well how to appreciate.

My love to Uncle, Aunt, Abbie, Em, Kill, Carrie, Job, Lyd, Joe, Delight & Children, by the way, Mary must be quite a young lady by this time. Have not seen anything of Eph since writing last. Suppose he is all right however, and much love to yourself,

As ever,

Waters.

Camp of the 93d Regt. N. Y. Vols.
Near Falmouth, Va., Dec. 3d, 1862

My dear Emma:

Without much to interest you I am compelled to answer your letter or you will think I have forgotten you. There is no news in camp, the whole army seems to have the same drills, the same parades, daily. The Paymasters are here and everything is quiet for all hands are busy counting green backs. Our Paymaster is here he is now paying off "Couchs" Division and is expected here to pay us off in a day or so.

The 2d N. Y. is only about one half a mile from us. I saw Willie Whipple & Walter Douglass yesterday Willie wished to be remembered to you all.

Some of the Officers are over here every night & they have a regular drunken spree untill about 3 or 4 in the morning. Capt. _____ & (I am sorry to say) _____ have been drunk with some 4 or 5 other officers of our Regiment have been drunk for about a week and the other officers who think they are a disgrace to the regiment get abused by them every day. They took a great spite against me but they have recovered from it entirely, although Capt. _____ owes me a grudge for "choking" him slightly once on Rikers Island.

I am afraid if the officers dont care a little more for their own and the regiments reputation that the 93d will find itself 2n-route for a brigade without any tents one of these mornings. Many a young & promising officer in this army is forming habits of dissipation that will follow him through all his after life.

There is no certainty when we will move from here, but I do not think we shall cross the River at this place, but down the River farther under cover of the Gun Boats. I am back with my company again and it seems like home to me. I dont see much chance of coming home right away, but do not dispair of coming this winter. There has been a change in the Postal arrangement of the army so we dont expect any mail for the next week at least. The Mail, instead of coming in bulk to these HdQtrs. is to come to the four different "Grand Divisions" of the Army, direct from Washington.

There are a great many transports down to the landing at Acquia Creek, and some talk that part of this force is going up James River but how true it is time will tell.

Our old Commandent at Hd Qtrs. Major Haller is away on furlough but we expect him back soon. I wish he was now, some of the officers would keep a little more straight. Give my respects to the young Ladies next door. I wish them all a merry Christmas. My love to all the folks over home, all friends of the family, & believe me as ever,

Your aff. cousin,

Waters.

To Em.

December 6th, 1862
Camp of 93d N. Y. Vols.
Near Falmouth, Va.

Dear Uncle:

Enclosed I send by Express \$180.00 of which please credit me \$150.00 & Peter McDonald \$30.00. There is no news here, everything is quiet and we appear to be waiting for some event to come off, before we move from here. We had quite a storm of snow last night and pretty cold. I will answer Abbie's letter tomorrow.

With love to Aunt, Abbie, Libbie, Em, Kill, Carrie, Job, Lyd, Delight & the Children and all,

As ever,

Waters

In haste.

Camp of 93d Regt. N. Y. Vols.
Near Falmouth, Virginia
December 9th, 1862

Dear Cousin Abbie:

Your letter which was duly and gladly received I should have answered sooner but day before yesterday I went down to Acquia Creek & yesterday was officer of the guard. It was the first time I had been on guard since leaving Harrison's Landing but it came very natural to me again. The Guards at Hd Qrs. are doubled now so we have to send about 100 men every night for guard.

Everything is quiet apparently but there probably will be a big move in about two days and undoubtedly a big fight too, and then Secesh better look out or Burny will take their Extra Baggage and I hope their capitol too.

I have not seen anything of Ephraim lately or my brother Wm. but heard Wm. was in the convalescent camp at Alexandria. Our old Commandant at Hd. Qtrs. has not yet returned and I think likely he will be promoted to Colonel of one of the Pennsylvania Regiments so you need not direct my letters to his care any more but simply "93d N. Y. Vols. Hd Qtrs. Army of Potomac".

Our officers are continually getting passes to go to Washington & I guess some of them go farther north. But if I can not come without risking my commission by such a trick you need not expect me but Col. Loring the present commandant at Hd. Qtrs. told Col. Crocker yesterday that there would probably soon be a chance and then he would assist him in getting a furlough for all the officers to go home for a short time each. I think by that we are to make a grand move and then go into winter quarters if possible in Richmond. The past few days have been very cold and our men have suffered pretty severely but how much more must the rebels suffer, but today is nice & warm and we shall not likely have any colder weather all winter than we have had, and the army is to have canvas tents soon.

The officers of our Regt. are fixed comfortable enough to stand it considerably colder than it has been but I am afraid they wont find a brick yard so handy next time we march.

The paymaster has been here and I sent to Uncle Waters by Express \$180.00 which I suppose has reached him ere this. I forgot to put the No. of the house on

the address so he had better enquire for it at the Express and will send the Receipt when I write again. I had to send it to Washington to be expressed.

Give my love to Aunt, Uncle, Em, Libbie, Kill, & all, & believe me as ever,

Waters.

To Abbie:

P.S. Give my respects to the officers & teachers of the Sunday school.

W.

Camp of 93d N. Y. Vols.
Near Falmouth, Virginia
December 12, 1862

Dear Cousin Libbie:

At last there is a battle and the long expected movement has commenced. The battle opened yesterday morning at daylight the engineer Brigade were putting down two pontoon bridges and the troops were all ready to cross as soon as they were finished, but when the bridges were about 2/3 of the way across they were opened on by the Rebel Sharpshooters from the houses, there were seven regts. of them and as soon as they commenced firing from the houses our artillery, consisting of at least fifty guns, commenced shelling the town (in persuance to orders if there was any firing from the houses). Under cover of the fire of artillery the engineers attempted to lay the bridge at least a dozen times without success. This lasted until about 2 o.c. p.m. and the town was on fire in six places & one half in ruins, and then the 7th Mich. Vols. were ordered to cross the river, and drive the Rebs. out of the buildings, or rather the cellars, it was certainly the most gallant thing I ever witnessed, the "engineers" volunteered to row them over in pontoon boats which was accordingly done and although a great many were killed & wounded they succeeded in driving the secesh out and at the same time the engineers went to work on the bridge and all hands volunteered to assist and in less time than it takes me to write it the main thing the "Bridge" was finished, and the rebs on the skidadle. Not before they shot a good many of our boys from the windows of the houses. It seemed almost like murder but their city suffered a good deal to pay for it and it is said there were some women & children killed. It seems pretty hard but they had about two weeks to leave in and had been told that if there was any firing from the houses in the city, it should be destroyed and it was. We took one hundred & fifteen prisoners in the city and they say their orders were to prevent us from building the bridge at any cost.

When the firing first commenced in the morning the Genl. Patrick sent over to camp for somebody to accompany him so if anything happened he could send back to camp & the Col. sent me as the Adjt. was gone to Washington. So I had a good chance to see the whole fight and was the first to ride over the bridge on horseback. I could see the Secesh shoot our boys out of the cellar windows & see our boys take about eighty prisoners & a British flag. After the first little dash was over the Genl. sent me to conduct the prisoners to the rear which I did and returned in time to see quite a fight in the streets of the city.

During the fighting all day the Rebels never fired a cannon shot at us untill our troops occupied the town their whole object being to prevent our men from building the bridge, and in fact it was just as good as a death warrant for a man to set his foot on the bridge. It was the sharpest work I have yet seen and the cannonading on our side was continued and terrific. I believe there was fifty tons of iron thrown into the town. I had a good chance to see the whole fight and would not have missed seeing it for the world. The other officers of our Regt. had to stay in camp all day & I was quite a Lion when I returned at night, having been over the river and been following Genls. Patrick & Burnside around all day. I saw more men killed & wounded & probably more real fighting yesterday than the 93d will see while they remain at Hd. Qtrs. I wish I was home for a little while I could explain and relate more little instances of bravery on the part of our troops than I can write in a dozen letters.

After our troops had taken the city the Rebels to whom the thing was rather astonishing opened fire on our troops from their batteries posted on the range of hills back of the town and it was a glorious sight to see our men march along like veterans as they are, without apparently minding the murderous fire of a dozen batteries which could hardly fail to take effect on the masses of our troops of all kinds marching down in plain sight to cross the bridge but with Burnside & his entire staff looking on the men could not but act gallantly under fire in his presence not for himself any more than for the Man whose place he fills. "Our Own McClellan". I was not sorry when the General said we would sleep in the present camp last night and begin fresh at them this morning, for you see I started off without my breakfast in the morning and did not get anything to eat all day nor my horse either.

I recd. Uncle's last letter last evening and will answer it as soon as we get in camp again & then he will know our whereabouts.

Give my love to all. I might write more but I want this to go in this mornings mail & expect to go out with the Genl. again today.

In haste,

Waters

9 o.c.p.m.

Camp of 93d N. Y. V.
Near Fredericksburgh
December 13th, 1862

Dear Uncle:

When writing to Libbie yesterday morning I little thought I should get a chance to write you from this place for we expected to be continually on the march but there was once in a while a cannon & twice in a while a musket in the way, all yesterday was occupied in skirmishing and this morning was begun a battle which for being obstinately contested on both sides will surpass anything during this rebellion.

The Rebels occupied a very strong position that was well fortified & well mounted with guns & supported by three divisions of infantry under Jackson, Longstreet & Hill.

Franklin's division which crossed the River below here begun the fight which soon became general and raged fiercely all day, along a line of battle for at least three miles in length. The entire fight has been one continuous attack & repulse during the entire day and has resulted in nothing very decisive except the taking of a number of Rebel Batteries and some few prisoners, but it is reported at Hd. Qtrs. that Franklin has taken 4000 prisoners and a great many guns down on the left.

The entire battlefield has been in plain sight of Genl. Burnside's Hd. Qtrs. and if the 93d were not lucky enough to have a hand in the fight some of us witnessed it, and you would hardly believe that a continued discharge of cannon & musketry could be seen & heard from daylight till dark but such is the fact & at this hour there are occasional discharges by regiments & even whole brigades which fairly makes the ground tremble for miles around. I saw one rebel battery charged 4 times by our troops and finally taken.

Our loss had undoubtedly been very large, even larger than the enemys. The fighting will probably last all night as the opposite lines of battle are in easy gun shot and we shall again attack them in the morning with fresh troops which will probably end in a decisive victory for our side or the other. God grant it may be for ours. The army are confident of success & no army could fight better.

I am sorry your health is so poor & hope you are not going to have a sick winter of it like that other one. My own has been excellent, and I hope soon to get

a chance to come home for a few days & hope to find your health improved & if possible entirely restored. I am anxious to come & yet I dont want to miss the battles I was talking with the Colonel today about it. There are now eleven officers of this regiment who are away & only two of them legally. They have been sent down to Washington on business just as I was and have taken advantage of it to go home, and so cheat others of a chance to go, but the Col. says that as soon as some of them return he will try & get me a short furlough. If I cant come in an honorable way without doing as some of them have done I will stay. (What if it were not for favoritism would break them of their commissions). But I have no doubt the Col. tells all who apply the same story and makes the same promise, so you need not expect me till I come, but rest assured that will be on the first opportunity.

Give my love to Aunt Hannah & tell her I will write to her as soon as these battles are decided, all the news. Give my love to Em & Kill Abbie, Libbie, Delight & the Children & all. I saw Eph on Wednesday. Their regiment was on the march & passed right through our camp. He looked first rate. I wanted him to stop for dinner but he would not, he must have been in todays fight. I hope he is all safe. I will ascertain & write as soon as possible to you.

In haste,

Your aff. Nephew,

Waters W. Braman