

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

1861 - 1865

LETTERS written while in service

by

WATERS WHIPPLE BRAMAN

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

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

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

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

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

Camp of 93rd N. Y. Vols. Hdqrs Gd.
Near Fredericksburgh Jan. 15th, 1863

Dear Uncle;

As you doubtless have heard I did not leave New York until Monday evening. I intended leaving on Sunday but Bob & I were over to his sisters in Brooklyn and did not get back in time for the train. I was afraid you might think that if I could stay so long away that I might have remained longer at home, but when I left I did not intend staying more than over one night in the City, but time flies away very lively there. When I arrived in Washington I found I could not get away on the morning boat because I did not have a pass and could not get one in time. So I did not get to the Regt. until last night.

The Regt. is just where I left it, having returned to this camp four or five days ago, so I had no trouble in getting my trunk to camp. Expect to go over to see Eph tomorrow. I understand that the 104th is about four miles from here on the Belleplain road towards Potomac Creek.

There is no foundation to the story of Burnside leaving here, and there is every probability of a speedy movement, and there is a rumour here that our forces are crossing the Rappahanock about ten miles above Fredericksburg and are fighting now. At any rate you may look for stirring news from here in a day or two.

What a nice time I did come in, no movement of any kind since I left. I had a very nice visit and it does not seem as if I had been gone a week from the Regt.

There have been four resignations in our Regt. since I was away, the Q-master and three 2nd Lieuts, one of them from Co. "C", Lt. Milo E. Washburn. He had been sick with the Rheumatism a good deal and I guess wanted to see Mrs. Washburn as much as anything. We shall probably have our orderly, Joseph S. Little, in his stead and he will make a good officer.

Capt. Barnes expects to come north in about a week and will call on his way if possible. I expect to send the trunk home tomorrow by Lieut. Warren of Co. "E", who has also resigned.

You remember the Mr. Hyde who used to drill the class in the Bayonet Exercises, he is now a Brigadier General & Chief of Staff with Major Gen'l. Banks, he was in Washington but I did not see him.

Will write as soon as I hear for certain that there is to be a movement. The pontoon boats are moving towards the River which means something. Love to All, Aunt Hannah, Abbie, Libbie, Delight & the children, Em & Kill, Carrie & Job, Lyd, & Joe (is it a boy) and all friends of the family, and believe me as ever,

Your Aff. Nephew,

Waters W. Braman.

Camp of 93rd N. Y. Vols.
Near Fredericksburgh, Va.,
January 19th, 1863

Cousin Libbie;

You are undoubtedly waiting for me to open correspondence. On the day after I wrote to Uncle Waters I went to see Eph. He was expecting me and was wonderfully pleased with the valise from home and immediately proceeded to try on the underclothes & then tried the Brandy. I don't think any one but Jim Sellick & himself got much of it. He needed the things very much as they have eight months & a half pay due them & if they had money could not get the things which were sent. The Jelly he put away and said he should keep it so that if Jim or himself should be sick they could have it at that time. The only thing he wanted that was not sent was some paper collars, but if he comes over here I can let him have some so it will be all right.

He was looking very well and says he has been much better since they could get vegetables of their commissary. I was mistaken about their regiment not being engaged in the battle of Fredericksburgh, for they were and lost pretty severly, & Capt. Sellick distinguished himself for bravery but did not get a single scratch himself. Capt. Quackenbush of the 2nd was over here last evening and said that they had orders to move today but I do not think they have done so, but you may expect a move in this department every day until you hear of one.

The cake was very nice and disappeared rather suddenly. The trunk I sent to Washington by Lieut. Warren on Friday morning and he was to express it to Troy. Tell Uncle Waters to pay the charges & charge the same to me. There was something in the trunk as I sent my overcoat by Bob Getty from N. Y. The Lieut. who started with me has not yet returned and I should not be surprised if he was at the convalescent & straggler camp at Alexandria as they take that way of punishing officers who stay over their time. I suppose I might have staid a few days longer but it would have been rather riskey, although it would have been all right at the Regt., but never mind, its just as well as it is.

There is no signs of Burnside leaving this army of the 93rd Hdqrs., I am in hopes you will soon hear good news from the Army of the Potomac.

Give my Love to Uncle & Aunt, Em & Kill, Abbie, Delight & the children, Carrie & Job, Lyd & Joe and all the Washington Co. folks & my respects to all of Kill's family and all friends of the family, and believe me as ever. Write soon.

Your Affe. Cousin,
Waters.

To Libbie.
P.S.

Ask Uncle Waters to send me \$20. or \$25. as the money I got did not go very far in N. Y. & Washington as I had a good many things to get for some of the Boys. There is no hurry about it, anytime in a fortnight or so will answer. W-.

Camp of 93rd N. Y. Vols.
Opposite Fredericksburgh, Va.
January 23rd, 1863

My dear Cousin Libbie;

If Uncle and the rest of you were surprised at my long stay in New York, I was more surprised on receiving your letter of the 19th, to learn that you thought I intended staying longer in N. Y. when I left home than I was willing to acknowledge. Now, when I started I intended staying in N. Y. City over one night. I arrived there on Friday about 5 o'clock PM & after escorting "Miss Newlands" (the young lady who Mr. Knowleson placed in my charge) to her school on 23rd St. near 5th Avenue, I started down Broadway, at the St. Nicholas met Bob who asked for Kill, we then went down to Earles Hotel, got supper & then went to "Laura Keenes", and from there back to Hotel. Next day, "Saturday" it rained like "thunder" all day. "Billy Oswald" was there, we went over to the "Boat" and then went up to see the new "Iron Plated Monitor", the "Roanoke". It rained so that we did not circulate much till evening when we all three went to "Bryants Minstrels". Next day, "Sunday" got up about 11 O.C. AM. went to the Boat (instead of to church) and in the afternoon went over to Brooklyn and called upon Bob's Sister. Expected to get back to leave that night & settled up at the Hotel before going over there, but did not get back in time to leave and went down to Madison St. & called (Bob & Myself) on a young lady. I forgot to state that we had called also on Saturday & the young lady had supposed that I had gone back to the Army, as Bob & myself had both taken an affectionate farewell, "Bob especially". Next morning "Monday" I said I would go that day anyway and was sorry I had staid so long but there I was. We traveled over to the "Boat" and around town untill about noon when we went across town &-----, at any rate when we got down to the Hotel & got supper it was time to start & I started. Thus endeth the "Confessions" of a Soger.

About the "getting married" part, there was never any thing further from my mind than that same little piece of business & rest assured that when I am foolish enough to enlist in such a privateering enterprise as that the family that brought me up & made me what I am, will surely know of it before Strangers "or any other man", and, for mercy sake, don't let any such "foolish" notions cause you any loss of sleep.

About Rob't. Getty, I don't know as you can see any thing in him, but if I can I think I am old enough to know it & if you believe all his humbug stories you will probably have a good time.

About McClellan's picture, I really am ashamed, as I forgot all about it, and after you were so kind to me I am very sorry. But the Capt. is coming north soon and I will certainly send one of his, and one of Burnside too.

You need not think you wrote first, for I got the start of you.

You must have heard of the contemplated move here. There

was one and I was intending to write to Uncle Waters last night all about it but then your letter came and I thought I would answer that & write all the news.

All day on Wednesday the troops and Artillery were on the move towards the river, but at night it commenced raining & blowing very hard, so it was thought impracticable to put down the pontoons in the storm, and it has rained continually, (the troops lying out without shelter in the cold & storm, which was awful) untill this morning, & the mud is awful, and the move is abandoned for the present and Burnside has gone to Washington. I wonder who the northern papers will abuse (Burney or the Administration) for the failure this time. I wish they had to draw a siege-gun through the mud. It would relieve their excited imaginations slightly.

Ephs Regiment was out in all the storm. They marched right through our camp on Wednesday afternoon and Eph & Capt. Sellick staid to tea with me. It was raining very hard when they left & Capt. Barnes & myself both urged them to stay all night, but they would not as they expected to cross the river before morning. Their Paymaster was with them and had paid three Companies that day & expected to pay the rest as soon as they halted, but the storm has been so severe that I doubt whether he pays them until today. You have no idea of the severity of the storm. It will make Eph more sick than ever of soldering, and he talks shamefully now of the Government & every one else. He will suffer for it one of these days if he is not a little more careful how he talks. The Paymaster is paying the Regiment up to the 1st of November which will give Eph six months pay.

Now that the move is over the regiments are all marching back to encamp and get dried off. I expect Eph here today. I think he will leave the Army if possible right away. He says so at least.

We have been very comfortable in camp notwithstanding the storm. We have a stove in the tent and mean to take the best possible care of our own dear selves.

Perhaps it is just as well that Kill did not come down with me as it would be awful to be sick in camp during this terrible storm. Tell him I will write him in a day or two. I don't think there is any likelihood of our moving from here in some days, but we may before tomorrow for aught I know.

Give my respects to all the young ladies who feel agrieved by my not calling, & you can let them understand you know that I "aint married" and am coming home one of these days, that is, if I can stay just long enough in any one place to suit all hands. Give my tenderest regards to Alex & tell him I will send one of those pictures as I have a large stock on hand.

Give my love to all, Uncle, Aunt, Abbie, Em Kill, Delight and the children, Carrie, Job and little Abbie, Lyd & Joe (I am anxious to hear the gender of the expected chap) & all of the other

friends. I hope you did not do about that handkerchief that Helen R-- was going to mark as I did about McClellan's picture.

With Love &c I remain as ever,

Waters.

P.S.

One of our Lieuts. who has just returned from sick leave at N. Y. brought on a lot of Pictures of McClellan and Burnside & others so I was enabled to get one of each from him and have sent them by mail today. I think McClellan's is a little dark for him but the expression of the face is splendid. Burney's is first rate, only it looks almost too sad for him. Eph has just been here & taken dinner. They are going back to their old Camp & expect to be paid tonight. He received a letter from Delight last evening. He tells a pretty hard story of his sufferings for the past 3 days.

Waters.

I rec'd the first three papers, for which accept my thanks.

W-

The first part of this letter, "The Confession" is strictly confidential, that is, between you and I & the family. Don't have this published in the Times.

W-

Camp of 93rd Regt. N. Y. Vols.
Near Potomac Creek, Va.
January 28th, 1863

Dear Uncle;

Your long expected letter has come at last. I don't see why it takes a letter seven days to come now when they used to be only four days on the way.

As you perceive we have moved Camp and that to the very same place at which Hdqrs., located during my absence (but did not get moved over here) (and should not, had the last move proved successful as expected.) but as no mortal can rule the elements, the movement failed and here we are fixed for at least six weeks, as it has stormed continually since the move was begun, and as for the roads there is no bottom to them. The mud is two feet deep at least and about as thick and sticky as "putty". And what condition they will be in after the snow melts off is more than I can tell. The storm changed from rain to snow about midnight last night, which is at least a foot in depth and still snowing hard at nine this evening. It is not cold but the wind blows very severe from the northeast. The Army will not suffer much as they all have log shantys of their own building, and every camp looks like a young village.

I have not seen Eph since the day I wrote to Libbie. They were expecting to be paid off that day. I should not be surprised if he can get out of the Army if he went down to Portsmouth where Elijah Wm. is, to try his luck there as he reads me some letters from Elijah telling him to come and thought he could do well if he had even a small amount of cash on hand. Eph has suffered a good deal & fretted a good deal more and talks scandalous now, but I hope he may be successful in getting out of a business he likes so little, and also in whatever new business he may embark in after he gets out. He appears to think the world of his family, and I know he longs for the day when he can again sit down in a home of his own.

Capt. Barnes left Camp for home on Sunday morning. He went on "Recruiting Service" and I do not expect him back under two months or more. I do not think he will give you a call on his way up but he will probably be down to Albany once or twice and promised to give you a call. I am much obliged for the cordial invitation to him as a friend of mine. I am sure you will like him. He is right straight up & down.

I think "Bob" "fibbed" several times on the number of calls made in New York, still I don't think my reputation much damaged even with the young ladies. You may give my tenderest regards to them all, only don't tell them I am married, but I see you don't mention that in your letter.

Give my Love to Aunt Hannah and the girls & Delight and children, also Em & Kill (I will write to them in a day or so) Carrie & Job, Lyd & Joe, Aunt Hat and all the Washington Co., folks & friends of the family, the Domine Mr. Kerr &c. & believe

me as ever,

Affect. Your Unmarried Nephew,

Waters W. Braman.

PS.

We shall get our pay again within a fortnight.

W,-

I am in receipt of six "papers" which I have failed to acknowledge, but do so now with many thanks. Lieut. Moore also accompanied Capt. Barnes North and you will probably see him, he has been very straight la---

Waters.

Camp of 93rd N. Y. Volunteers
Near Falmouth, Va., Jany. 31st, 1863

Dear Uncle;

Have just received your letter of the 27th, also one from Libbie of same date. I also received one from her last night, so she is ahead of me just now. The money was all right. I was not in a great hurry for it as I still have money & as usual had money to lend since I wrote for it. You need not fear of my suffering as long as I have such good friends to write to. Perhaps from what I wrote, you think I spent all my money in N. Y., but such was not the case, but on the contrary on offering to pay my bill at the Hotel, I found it paid, as Bob said I had been visiting him.

Snow mixed with mud has considerably changed the face of the earth, and the "fortunes of war" mixed the "Powers that Be" (three parts of the latter to one of the former) have changed Commanders for the Army of the Potomac. But the Irrepressible 93rd still remains a monument of Martyrdom to the cause (& their own interests). There is no prospect of a change in our position, although there have been some important changes within the Social Limits of the Regt. About a dozen of the former whiskey drinkers have dug up the hatchet and declared open war against their old friend the bottle. I am glad of it too.

I wrote you from the other Camp to which we had moved but the severity of the storm preventd Hdqrs. from moving and so we are back in our old camp, from which I came North.

I forgot to write you of the changes in Commanders &c., but you doubtless are better informed in regard to the manner of Genl. Burnside's leaving, together with the removal of Genl. Sumner & Franklin & the causes for the same, through the papers, than we are here. General Hooker has been in Washington ever since his being appointed to the command.

I have just written to Abbie & Carrie and will write to Lydia in a few days. Poor girl, she has had a hard time indeed.

Have not seen Eph since writing you last, but he must be all right. There will certainly be no move in this Army, and if his resignation was sent in now I think it would stand a fair chance of getting through all right.

Our Paymaster was here last week and said that he was going back but would soon be out and pay us to Jany. 1st. He would have done so then had his money held out, and, as he was paying regiments that had five or six months pay due them, it would be hardly fair to ask him to pay us before he has finished with them.

Will you be kind enough to get Mr. Bonticon to make a pair of Boots of the same kind of leather as mine but with short legs, double uppers & soles to cost not over \$6. or \$7. & by the same measure as mine. They are not for me but mine just fit. And will you send them by express as all Boxes or packages come through direct. Some have come quicker than the letters. Please pay him and write me the amount. If the Girls are a mind to they can send some cake or pickles, anything in that line that can be eaten, but no clothes or anything that would require transportation.

About that pass, I am a little doubtful about getting it untill we get a trifle acquainted with the new officers, as the personal staff of Genl. Burnside accompanied him and I have had no chance to try the new Adj. Genl. but I am certain that if you come to Washington with the letters you spoke of you & Kill could both get passes to the Army. In about three weeks would be a good time. I am all alone and so could accomodate you both in splendid (Army) style. I will try and get the pass & keep you advised of our exact whereabouts. I think we shall be near the Rail Road.

With Love to All,

In haste,

Waters.

Camp of 93rd N. Y. Volunteers
Near Falmouth, Virginia
January 31st, 1863

Dear Cousins Abbie & Carrie;

From letters from home I learned that Aunt Hannah & yourself were going up to Union Village so I thought a letter from me might be well received.

We have had about a week of continued storm either of rain or snow & it is now as warm as summer, but the Army has suffered but very little comparatively speaking, as they were all back in the same quarters they occupied before the last move. The Army of the Potomac are more troubled in mind to know what is to be done, or who is to command them next. You doubtless know of Burnside's resignation and the placing of Hooker in command. Also the removal of Gen'l. Sumner & Franklin & are probably better informed through the papers of the causes of all the changes than we are here.

The mud is awful. This Army cannot possibly move under six weeks. The Undaunted 93rd still remains at Hdqrs. notwithstanding the many changes & the probability is they will continue to perform the dangerous duty of guarding the slumbers of the Nepoleons of the present day. It is the opinion in the Army that the next person to assume that character & the command of this Army will be the Pathfinder & Jesse of course.

I am glad to learn of the successful termination of Lyds & Joes last campaign and that recruits continue to arrive. I am sorry the supply of rations is not forthcoming. Something must be wrong with the base of supplies. Give my love to Lyd & tell her I will write to her in a day or two. I think I will advise them to "Ask to be relieved from active duty". I think they are entitled to that for their distinguished services.

I hope, Carrie, you will think this worthy of an answer. Oh, I forgot, I believe you decided at our debate on the subject that you, no lets see, who was it wrote last.

Give my love to Aunt Hat & Jobs Folks and all the friends My regards to all the young ladies. Tell Miss Andrews & all the rest that I regret very much that my time was so limited (& my services here so much in requisition) that I did not have the pleasure of calling to pay my respects in person. Write soon all of you and keep writing. Conshious I almost forgot the baby, then my fate would have been sealed for certain. Kiss her (the baby) a dozen times. She will be almost a young lady when I next visit the romantic village, situated on the line of fast Sailing Iron Shods. Almost broke my neck on the eventful morning on which it was my ----- fortune to travel by that celebrated route. I had rather ride over that road once than Two hundred & twice.

My respects to Job. I wish he had been in N. Y. with Bob G. & myself.

With Love,

Your Affec. Cousin,

Waters.

To Cousins Carrie & Abbie.

Camp of 93rd N. Y. Vols.
Near Falmouth, Va.,
February 4th, 1863

Dear Cousin Libbie;

Whether or not I was ahead of you, or you of me, you certainly got a little the start of me in writing two days in succession. I do not see the reason that letter did not arrive in due time but perhaps it was detained in Washington as we have heard here that they have been intercepting the Army correspondence in search of treasonable matter. I don't think they would open a letter directed to a Miss as they would think it a love letter sure. I am glad Wesley wore my Zouave Uniform to the fancy dress party, for then the trousers must have got mended in the ----- where the moths eat them.

I was unfortunate enough while on guard the other night to lose one of the prisoners, and, although by no fault of mine, as Officer of the Guard, I was held responsible, and got put in arrest by Major Haller the Commandant of the Post to pay for it. I don't apprehend anything serious from it however. The prisoner was a straggler picked up by the Provost Guard, and has since been caught and sent to his regiment. Major Haller is going home tomorrow on leave of absence and Col. Crocker is to be Commandant of the Post until his return. I wish he could be for good. All of our Recruiting Party is ordered to return, including Capt. Barnes & Lt. Moore. There is some trouble between the State of N. Y. & the General Government. If you know any thing about it, write or send me the papers with it in, as we know nothing about it down here. It is said the Gov. Seymour will not allow any more recruiting in the State until the President's proclamation is revoked. He will find that the Army will stand by the President as long as he represents the Government. of the U. S.

They are Court Martialling officers here for using treasonable language so it is reported.

We have had very nice weather & the mud is either frozen or dried up, so that it will soon be possible to move Artillery and if this weather continues, I should not be surprised if we made a move of some kind. We shall never know (now Genl. Hooker is in command) when we are going to move until we get started.

Have not seen Eph since writing to Uncle W---, nor heard from him. I have received "fifteen" papers in all, for which I am very much obliged to you. There are some pictures of Hooker like the ones I sent you, coming from N. Y., and if I can get one will send it. Then you will have all the Commanders of this Army. We have got some of Col. Crocker also & I will send you some of his, and perhaps I will send you a book to remember Fredericksburgh by. I think Jeff Davis does not need any thing of the kind to make him bear it in mind. Would not it be best to send it to Aunt Hannah to prevent you & Em quarrelling about it, like who should kiss me last when I came away.

You need not think I am very mad about the first letter you wrote, for I am not so but that I will recover, (when the Honey-moon is over). I don't see why Bob does not send my coat. I will write to him about it. I had a letter yesterday from my brother Wm. He is in the Methodist Church Hospital at Alexandria. He is much better and is now detailed as a nurse, but wants to get away, if possible, but is afraid he will get sent to the Convalescent Camp again. I never saw any one that had ever been there, who wanted to try it again.

I must close as the postmaster is waiting in my tent. With Love to All, Uncle, Aunt, Abbie, Em, Kill, Delight, children, and don't rob yourself but believe me as ever,

In haste

Your Aff. Cousin

Waters.

To Libbie

Camp of 93rd N. Y. Vols.
Near Falmouth Feby 10th, /63

Dear Uncle;

I last night received yours of the 5th inst. and also one from Em, containing the handkerchief.

There is no news stirring here not even a rumour. We seem to have settled down into the mud and are apparently waiting for something to turn up. The sending of troops to Fortress Monroe or somewhere else still continues.

Major Haller, the Commandant of the Post, placed me in arrest because a prisoner escaped from the guard house when I was on duty and has since got a furlough home, leaving me in durance vile. He will probably return in about a week, and I suppose I am booked for that period at least. I do not apprehend anything serious (as it was by no fault of mine that he escaped) unless the Provost Marshall should order me before a court. It might be the best thing for me, but they take queer turns sometimes. Still I think it will be all right. I have sent today a book to Libbie which came or rather was brought from the City of Fredericksburgh, the day of the battle. It is not much of a book aside from its being a memento of the battle at that place. I send it to her as she has always seemed so willing to do anything to be of service to me since my being in the service, and so have all of you and I am very thankful to you all.

I am sorry I did not let you send two pairs of boots, not to speculate on, however, but the boys need them very much now and will for the next six weeks. I would not part with mine for any price. I received a letter from Uncle Dan Braman a day or two ago. It was a very good one indeed and I shall answer it soon.

We are going to have Genl. Seth Williams for Adjutant Genl. of the Army of the Potomac. He is the same one that was always with McClellan. He is a very nice man, and always did everything that was reasonable for the 93rd. As soon as he gets here, & I get out of Limbo I am sure I can get a pass for you & Kill to come down and I know you could get one now in Washington. Enclosed I send the address of the person to whom you would have to apply for a pass should you get ready to come down before I can procure one. There are a great many citizens here now, but it is mighty bad getting around. We are at the same Camp as at the time of my coming home, about two miles from the Falmouth Station and any time you think of coming let me know, for I am certain you could get the papers in Washington and now would probably be the best time for no one knows where Jo Hooker will take us

to when the mud does dry up. We can not move in a month certain.

I have been going to write to Kill & Em & also to Aunt Hannah but have failed so far, but hope soon to do so. I shall certainly answer Em's tomorrow but if there is no more news than there is just at the present I fear it will be a dry letter.

Give my love to all, Aunt Hannah &c., & all.
Have not heard a word from Eph.

In haste but believe me as ever Your Aff. Nephew,

Waters

(Just in time for the mail)
(I also rec'd. 3 papers last night)

I wish you would send \$1. worth of stamps as I have used the last, on the book, that I had. I guess I can raise enough to write you however.

Camp of 93rd N. Y. Vols.
Near Falmouth, Va.,
February 11th, 1863

My Dear Em;

The letter and handkerchief came to hand night before last, for which I am very much obliged to you for sending and to Helen for working. I think it is splendidly worked. All who have seen it think it very neat, and if others do, I ought on account of the handkerchief itself think something of it. The papers, one of which contained the flirtation of Kill & Wally Willard also came.

There is no doubt now but we are settled down for some time to come. We have got our A tents from Washington, so the men are very comfortable, notwithstanding we have had so much storm. I believe it will average every other day, since my return, either rain or snow, - raining now like Blazes.

There are a great many citizens down visiting the Army and I wish if Uncle & Kill intend coming they would try it now. The 93rd has no cause to complain for they are getting "Soft Bread" & Potatoes every day and today our Q. M. issued a barrel of apples to each company.

I did not get sent to the Convalescent Camp as Gurdie Moore says nor did I get arrested. On the other hand I spent the day and night in Washington, with the very one who would have done it, if it were done at all, and had a pass that I could have staid in the City a week on. The officer who started home with me did, however, get sent there, and also another who had been gone a month, but they were both a week behind their time. If I had got there I should have written home about it. But I wrote home from the Regiment too soon after leaving N. Y. to have paid Camp Louse a visit. We have an officer there. Capt. Colvin, who has been there nearly six months. He is second in command and any of our officers who get sent there can always get away through him.

I have been going to write to Kill ever since I took the valise over to Eph, but have failed. The brandy was (not) drank of course (not). The only fault Eph found was so much clothes and so little brandy. He was very much pleased however.

I have been pretty busy for the past few days, making out reports for the Regt. for the year 1862.

There is no news afloat. We have the same daily routine which is to visit around camp, when the weather will permit us to leave our tents. I wish to the Lord we were in a fighting brigade and going off with the 9th Army Corps to Fortress Monroe, but a young Lieut. in the 79 N. Y. Hilanders who comes over to see me occasionally, says he would like to trade as he has seen fighting enough to suit him. I think they have been in sixteen or more engagements. He was promoted from the ranks and is now 1st Lieut. He is a Scotchman and I like to hear him talk. His brother is one of the boys who enlisted with me, and so he

Comes pretty often to see him. I don't know as you care to hear about him but there is no news. I think I will bring him home for Lib. I must pick out a thundering nice one for Helen. Don't forget to thank her for me. Think I could suit your rebellious neighbors, after the next fight from the guard house. I wish somebody had the Stragler who got away the night I was on guard before he got me into a scrape. Never mind I have easy times now, no guard duty to do these awful nights. Think I would be better suited however on guard. Don't fancy this masterly inactivity much. I aint a pretty good friend of Major Haller's just now either. I will balance the books with him one of these days.

Col. Crocker is coming home on a short leave of absence next week and I expect Capt. Barnes and our second Lieut every day. There has been a grand inspection of every regiment in this army with a view to consolidation of the old regiments. Won't there be a sleight noise. It will not affect the 93rd or any regt. with 500 men or over.

Give my love to Uncle, Aunt, Lib, Abbie, Delight, and children and all the Greenwich folks when you see them or write. Remember me to all of Kill's folks and all friends of the family. Write soon both Kill & you and believe me as ever

Your Aff Cousin,

Waters

To Em

Camp of 93rd N. I. VOIS.
Near Falmouth, Va.,
Feby. 15th, 1863

Friend Kill;

That I intended to write to you ere this is pretty certain, but that I have not, I am more certain, which I trust you will excuse.

You had better believe Eph disposed of that brandy. It would have done you good to look at him, and I know it did him a "power of good". He fastened the door of the tent and immediately opened the fight by opening the Bottle. The enemy was well entrenched but all to no purpose, being attacked on one side by Eph & the other by Jim. I wish the Rebs were as effectively cleaned out as the Brandy. The foe though fallen (down their throats) kicked like blazes and when I left, Jim did not know enough to shake hands with me and Eph was blackguarding him about it. I suppose he wrote you all about it. He said he would.

I have seen him twice since then, but not in the last fortnight at all. If he was as sound on the war question as he was on the brandy, he would be all right. There dont anyone get much the best of him in the 104th. He cant see the drills &c, at all.

But of myself here I am in Camp and cant go out of it even to HdQrs., for Old Haller put me in arrest because a stragler escaped from the Guard House, & then got a furlough home, and so here I am, no duty to do or anything to trouble me. And I aint likely to get out of the lock up untill the old sinner comes back, bad luck to him. If I had only put the Sergeant of the Guard and two or three sentinels in arrest for letting the prisoner escape, I would have escaped all blame, but they would have laid in the guard house perhaps for two or more months.

I regret very much to hear of your ill health, and trust soon to hear of you as on your taps again. Enclosed I send you a bona-fide secesh document. It is an honorable discharge to a soldier in the Confederate Army and contains the signature of the celebrated Genl. Magruder of the Rebel Army, the one who was opposed to McClellan at Yorktown. He is the one who ordered those terrible torpedoes to be buried in the ground, by which so many of our boys were blown to pieces on the march after the Retreating Rebs. He is by far the most inhuman Genl. in their service.

I hear occasionally from Bob Getty. What a Bob!

I dont know what is to be did here. The 9th Army Corps which left here within a week have all landed at New Port News, and some think are to form the nucleus for a expedition somewheres. I dont think the mass of this army will move very soon. I would not be surprised, however, if we had some cavalry expeditions from here soon.

It is raining today as usual. I have not been able yet to get that pass, but am certain that Uncle Waters & you could get one in Washington at this time. Give my love to all the folks over home, and to all of your folks and the friends generally. The secesh paper I had when on the Peninsula. It was with some letters we left in Washington when we were ordered to leave our baggage.

Write soon and believe me as ever,

Waters.

Camp of 93rd N. Y. Vols.
Near Falmouth, Va.,
Feby 15th, 1863

Dear Cousin Libbie;

Your last was happily received last evening. The Capt. and Lieut. Little returned night before last. Did not expect them to return so soon when they went away. They did not have time to stop in Troy when they were on their way up because they were in a hurry to get home, and on their return they were just as bad off, as their orders were to report in forty eight hours to their Regt.

Have just received a letter from Abbie, which I shall answer at Troy. I wrote to Kill today & sent him a secesh "soldier discharge". It is one I had on the Peninsula and it just came to light in a box of the Capt from Washington with some of my old letters. Those pictures of the Regiment have just made their appearance at HdQrs. for the first time. If I can get some of Genl. Hookers (they are expected every day) will send you some of each and all of them also some of Col. Crockers. I sent you a few days ago a book that was brought over from Fredericksburgh on the day of the Battle. The House where Burnside, Sumner & Hooker had their HdQrs. at the time of the battle, was burned entirely, yesterday. It was known as the Philip's house and was by far the finest house I have seen in Virginia. The fire originated by accident. The owner is absent in the rebel service and there was none of the family but the old lady herself at home and a few old negroes.

We still enjoy our every days rain and the consequent mud. As you say, Hooker is reorganizing the Army of the Potomac, and I guess that is why all recruiting officers were ordered to rejoin their respective regiments. They are organizing trains of Pack Mules for the Cavalry and I expect that when the arrangements are complete we shall hear of some bold dashes by our cavalry.

We have a young lady (secesh of course) who was in the City of Fredericksburgh at the time of the Bombardment. She with her mother are stopping at a house in our Camp. She is rather pretty and pretty smart too. (You need not think I am going to get married again). I wish you would go up to Schoonmakers and get him to print about a dozen more of those Photographs for me, of those where I was standing by the chair. He must have the plate yet. I have forgotten it every time I have written. Get the money from Uncle Waters. You may keep four or five of them yourself as I only want a few that I promised here in the Regt. Give one to Doct Knowlson, if you get them.

With love to all and many thanks to you all for fixing the box, which by the way, has not yet arrived. I remain as ever,
Your Aff. Cousin,

Waters

Our Pay Master has not come along yet, but we are expecting him every day. W ---

This is not as long as yours but news is scarce & I shall have to acknowledge the box and that will make it all right.

With much love.

146 Waters.

Camp of 93rd N. Y. Vols.
Near Falmouth, Va.
Feb 18th, 1863

Dear Libbie

Enclosed I send you 10 of Col. Crocker's pictures and one of Hooker's, Banks, Butler, Hallock, Butterfield, Phil Kearney, Rosecrans & a group of our Genls. of 1861. You may give Em besides the Regt. picture Butterfields, Kearneys and the group. I recd your letter conting the stamps for sending which I am obliged, will answer to-morrow or next day. The Frank Leslie's has just come also 3 "Troy daily times" - for which accept my thanks. I had a letter from Eph last night he is well. I am sorry to hear that Uncle W- did not feel well & hope he is all right. Love to all. The box has not yet arrived.

In haste,

Waters.

Camp Near Falmouth, Va.
Sunday Feby. 22nd, 1863

Dear Aunt

Today puts me the most in mind of home of any since my return. We have a regular New York State snow storm which will be pretty severely felt in the Army as they have shoes only. About every other day we have as fine weather as you do in June, but the next day we pay for it with interest. We have also had a "National Salute" in honor of the Anniversary of "Washington's Birth Day". There was no response from the other side of the Rappahannock. I don't think they would venture out in this storm to celebrate the birth day of "King Jeff" himself, they are there however if they dont feel their Union pretty strong. The box has not yet gladdened my eyes, but one Q. M. went to Washington yesterday and is to bring all "Express" for the regiment, and will return tomorrow so I expect it then. I receive the Troy papers regularly and in fact those by mail are the only ones the Army of the Potomac receive now, as there are none allowed further south than Washington. This is by request of Genl. Hooker who says it is impossible to prevent the pickets from trading papers and so the Rebs get all the news of the sympathy of Northern traitors (I think them worse than the southern ones) and all other news as quick as we do here.

A few days ago I sent Libbie a Roll of pictures which I hope she has ere this received, they can be relied on as good likenesses of the persons they represent.

Gurdie Moore has resigned and starts for home to-morrow, he is not well himself, and his mother is very feeble and I guess they tried pretty hard to persuade him to, when he was at home. He was one of the best officers we had. That makes five officers who have resigned in the 93rd since my return, all on a "Surgeons Certificate of Disability", and in all probability there will two or three more follow in their tracks.

I am owing Abbie a letter, tell her I have not forgotten it. We dont have any church here nor have we had since McClellan left. I had a letter from Eph a few days ago. They are in the same camp as when I visited him, they have easy times now. All the regiments have easier times now than we do as our duty is the same or a little heavier than in summer, still it is a lazy life in winter to make the best of it.

I was sorry to hear in Libbie's last that Uncle Waters was not feeling well and I trust that in this he is feeling well again, and that both you and he may both enjoy many years to come of health and happiness. Give my love to Uncle Waters, Abbie, Libbie, Em, Kill, Delight, the children & all the friends of the family. Also to Carrie, Job, Lyd & Joe & Aunt Hat and all the Greenwich folk. When you write remember me to Wesley and all. And believe me as ever.

Your aff. Nephew,

Waters

To Aunt Hannah

Camp of 93rd N. Y. Hdqrs. Guard
Army of Potomac Feby 28/63

Dear Abbie

Yours from Greenwich was gladly received, and although the answering of it is somewhat delayed, yet I had not forgotten it. There is so little news here, that writing only amounts to letting you know of our whereabouts and my continued good health etc.

Today we were mustered for pay for the past two months, so it will probably be about three weeks before the rolls can be sent in and examined (by the department). And then we shall probably get our pay for the past four months. We expected to be paid two months pay every week since my return, but we shall get the whole four months to-gether. There are various rumors in regard to the 93rd and as to whether or no they will remain at Hdqrs, I do not believe them myself, although I for one am tired of being a dog for Hdqrs & sincerely hope we shall be brigaded soon. Soldiering in the winter is poor business at best, but between "Guard duty" & "Fatigue duty" - such as chopping wood, and policing the camp every day, the men have a pretty hard time. And the officers comparatively "nothing to do".

You must have had a good visit up to Greenwich you made such a long stay. I guess they used you pretty well up there.

I have not yet received the box, but expect it up tonight from "Acquia Creek". At the time I wrote for it, all Express came to Hdqrs, but that is changed now and all Express has to be brought up by the Quarter Masters. Ours has gone down today.

I recd last evening a letter from Uncle also one from Libbie & three papers the night before. We get no New York papers at all in the Army, and only occasionally the Washington Chronicle (Government papers) and I think it only right & proper, as the "Herald" "World" and such papers only have a tendency to create dissatisfacriion in the Army. There is no disloyal talk allowed here now, and as far as I can judge the mass of the Army uphold the Proclamation and are only anxious for a vigorous prosecution of the war.

How is the conscription act liked at the North? We like it pretty well here, I hope they will take every bank clerk & other nice young man in Troy.

For a wonder we have had two or three nice days here and the mud is drying up fast.

I have not heard a word from Carrie yet. I suppose she will swear she wrote two or three times. Give my love to all the Greenwich folks when you write. Also to Uncle, Aunt, Lib, Delight, the children, & Em & Kill, and my respects to all the young folks and all friends of the family & believe me as ever.

Yours Aff Cousin,

Waters

To Cousin Abbie

Camp of Genl Hdqrs., Army of Potomac
Near Falmouth, Va. March 1st, 1863

Dear Uncle,

Yours & Libbies letters were received two or three days ago, and I have delayed answering in hopes that something of interest would occur to found a letter on. Camp life is getting very tedious, but we have a prospect soon of some stirring work for this Army. And perhaps we shall go on the Peninsula again and try McClellans plan again, but we know nothing certain only that the entire Army is being reorganized. And in some instances, regiments have been consolidated with others and brigades with other brigades.

I see by the Washington papers of the 27th of Jany, that Ephriam was in that city, and he is probably ere this with you. I thought by his name being published as E. B. Wheeler, Troy, without any rank as an officer that he had resigned, is it so? or is he home on furlough. We were yesterday mustered for pay which we shall probably receive in about three weeks for "four months". If Eph is home on furlough if you could manage so as to leave & come down with him you would save a good deal of trouble that you would have to go through if alone. And I think that for the next three or four weeks will be the best chance to see the Army, before the summer campaign opens - you must expect to see some terrible travelling but we will make you comfortable if possible. It would be a good idea to learn to ride horseback & that would hardly keep you from the mud, but I think the facility for getting to the Army, and the weather for the next week or two will be the most favorable you will have. There is some talk (among the men) of our being brigaded but I dont believe it. Although I would be better satisfied, if it were so. Our Q. Master went to Washington last week and I thought he would bring the box, but he could not find it there. And I then supposed it was at Acquia Creek, but he was down there yesterday, and it was not there either. Perhaps it is in the mass of Express boxes at Baltimore. The office at Hdqrs. that was in operation when I wrote to you for the boots is to be reopened on Wednesday next and perhaps I shall get it soon after. I am very sorry, after the girls took so much pains to fix the things, that it has not come to hand before this, but I am much obliged to them all, just the same as if it had come right along, as I certainly thought it would when I wrote.

Enclosed I send a photograph of Jo Little our new 2nd Lt, he is a very nice & smart chap - we made a good trade in that respect.

Give my love to Aunt, Em Kill Libbie Abbie Delight & the children & Eph my respects to Mr. Kerr, Mr Knowlson, and all friends of the family, and to Dominee Robertson & Wife. And with the best wishes for your contined good health and prosperity - I remain as ever.

Your Aff Nephew

Waters W. Braman

P. S.

I have not heard from my brother Wm. since the letter I had from Alexandria. Give my Love to Job & Carrie, & Joe & Lyd when you write.

Yours,

Waters

Camp of 93rd N. Y. Vols.
Near Falmouth, Va.
Sunday, March 3rd, 1863

Dear Uncle,

Tonight I am in receipt of your own and Libbies & also one from Kill. The account is doubtless correct and I am much obliged.

We have just returned from across the River, and have to-day witnessed undoubtedly, one of the most severe and gallant battles ever fought on this Continent. We received orders last night about 11 O.C. to be prepared to be present at the laying of a bridge at the city, (just where Burnside had his) and then to guard the whole three, as every man was wanted in the fight, which opened at daylight, and consisted in Artillery fighting greatly to our advantage untill about 11 O.C. A.M. We had been steadily advancing up to that time when our first line of battle charged the heights and was driven back but the second line continued their charge, and took the works immediatly in rear of the City. When the rest of the troops saw the good old Stars and Stripes floating where a moment before the secession emblem had waved, such a cheer as was given. Then forward. And amid a rain of grape canister musket-balls & bayonets the entire range of hills were carried each by storm so suddenly that in some the guns were yet loaded, they not having time to fire or else not liking the array of Yankey steel coming up the hill. You can form no idea of strength of the works without seeing them.

The rebel prisoners all express great surprise at our taking them now, when Burnside with at least four times the force engaged here to-day, could not take them last December. And the works are now much more complete being a series of Forts joined by Rifle Pits.

Genl Hooker on their left & rear has also whipped them to-day and our cavalry has cut their bridges and destroyed a great deal of their supplies. And if I am not mistaken this part of their army will be cut to pieces and if so, Richmond is gone certain. The prisoners say if we had waited a few hours we could not have taken the heights as Longstreets & Hills divisions were coming to reinforce them, but alas for poor Rebs he came to late to save them, and our troops now occupy the Hills about four miles in rear of Fredericksburgh - from which they also drove the Rebs with the bayonet, in fact I do not believe that this part of our Army have fired six rounds of musketry to-day. And as for our Artillery, they could not be beaten, there was four companies of us where we were, and as the duty required only one officer on duty at a time the rest of us were out to the very front and had a splendid chance to see. And all agree that the Artillery firing to-day beats anything any of us have seen for precision and rapidity. We saw the charge on every height and went all over the field and the enemys works (after they was out of course). Most of the Rebel shots came over our men. And they evidently supposed we had a large reserve near the river, for they kept up an incessant shelling of the bank to the great annoyance of our men who were guarding the bridges as about one half the shot struck in the water on one side or other of the bridges (we had charge of two). They were both moved by the engineer brigade before we were relieved (about dark to-night) and all the bridges are now opposite the city itself. It is useless for me to try to describe the battle. But it is one of the most brilliant ones of the war. The Rebs were so sure that their works could not be taken and I do believe that one hundred thousand of the troops

of either Army could hold the place against anything any European power could bring against it. I dont think we have over 500 killed & wounded, the Rebs about the same, or perhaps less. Among the prisoners over to the guard house is the identical Lieutenant who took Col. Crocker prisoner and also the Colonel of his regiment the same who the Lieut. delivered him over to. He was in command of a brigade to-day and feels pretty sore.

A telegraph has been received at Hdqrs. from Genl Hooker that we have been entirely successful on the right, have driven the Rebs all day. Loss very heavy however. Genl Berry among the killed. The fate of the country hangs on to-morrows work. I trust we shall be succesful as to-day the Army is in splendid spirits. With love to all I remain as ever.

Your affectionate nephew,

Waters.

P. S. Part of our regiment goes to Aquia Creek at midnight with prisoners. I dont expect to go but perhaps will have to, every man has to help nowadays.

W -

Camp of 93rd N. Y. Vols.
Near Falmouth, Va.
March 5th, 1863

Dear Libbie

Your last letters have all been received, and if they have not been answered sooner, it was because I was writing home to some one of the others, and the amount of news afloat will hardly warrant a very extensive correspondence to the same person or family.

Every thing is with the Regt as it has been for the last two months. Another officer has resigned, and all the rest are either here or home on furlough. The Col. went for 20 days he left on the 1st, the Q. M. has gone to day for the same length of time and I shall be a Q. M. untill his return, I am glad of it too, for Haller was mean enough to keep me in arrest while he was away on furlough, and I will have the satisfaction of not doing any guard duty for him for a short time to come as being acting Q. M. will excuse me from all duty. If he had released me when he went home, (instead of waiting untill he came back) I should think more of him than I do now, and should have felt just as bad about being in arrest. But he wanted to show his authority, (never mind, it is all right).

The Photographs are all good and I am much obliged. Enclosed I send two or three more which I wish you would keep. The box has not yet arrived, but I am going down tomorrow to Acquia Creek, to draw clothing for the regiment, and if it is there, you may be sure I can get it and will. I wish Uncle Waters & Kill would come down now if they are coming, as we are likely to move soon if the fine weather continues, & besides I could keep them in a good deal better shape now as I have two empty tents and could make them as comfortable as if at home. I can give Kill a ride in a government waggon warrented to cure dyspepsia the first time. There are a great many officers wives here just now. Mrs. Dan Sickles of Washington notoriety is here with her husband, and are over to Hdqrs every fine day, "big thing".

There are the usual camp rumors but nothing reliable. We got no mail last night as the agent said there would no more come to this Army untill further orders. What that means I can not tell. Capt Saml McConihe started for home day before yesterday "on a leave for 10 days". I told him if he saw any of you to tell you I was well, in fact I never felt better in my life. Am fat as can be and lazy accordingly. "Who would not be a soldier".

I am glad the conscription bill has passed. It rather pleases the Army generally, and the giving of furloughs (however short) has done much to reconcile the Army to camp life.

The rebs will find their woods all cleared off if they ever get possession of this part of Virginia again as we have to bring our wood 4 or 5 miles now and there is scarcely a tree to be seen on this side of the river, and as far as we can see on the other side, the same is the case. At any rate we dont go over there to see.

Is Bob Getty home now, or where, I have not heard from, or of him, for a long time. I think he must be married or something as bad, or he would have written.

We expect to be paid soon probably within three weeks time. Give my regards to Mr & Mrs Robertson, and all friends of the family. My respects to all the young folks male & female especially female. Give my love to Uncle, Aunt, Abbie, Delight, Eph & the children Kill & Em and all and dont rob yourself, but believe me as ever.

Your Aff. Cousin

Water

To Lib

Q. M. Office Camp of 93rd N. Y.
Near Falmouth, Va. Mar 11/63

Dear Cousin Abbie,

Your letter of the 5th of March arrived in due time thro the proper channel. Am also in receipt of one from Em & another from Uncle Waters, and all the papers of course. The much written about box has not yet made its appearance but I shall look and enquire daily for it untill it does come. Am very sorry for I fear the things will some of them be spoilt, for which I should be very sorry, as you were all so kind as to prepare and send them.

We are having regular March weather and the accompanying winds etc. We have considerable rain but the wind seems to keep the mud pretty well dried up. We are ordered to be ready to march at a moments warning, but I do not think we shall make any great move under a fortnight at least as there is a great deal of property belonging to Govt which would be entirely lost if not taken care of. The entire army are being fitted out with shelter tents, and only allowed very little baggage but the 93rd still keep their wall tents and mean to if possible, if we have got to do this duty we are bound to be comfortable at least.

Tell Eph I received his letter all right, I wrote to some of you, that I had received a letter from him, and if you had told him he could have known it. Tell him that the article he left with me for safe keeping, was stolen by some one who cut my tent open for the purpose. Give him my respects and best wishes for his future welfare. I have not heard a word yet from Carrie, she has written though of course.

I had a letter from Wm., he is still at Alexandria, but dont seem to like the place pretty well, but is well himself. I guess he would like to see Mrs. B.- just about this time and that accounts for his uneasiness. She is up to Port Henry now. Was up to her fathers last week. He never opens his head about her in his letter to me but I have heard from other sources. Give my respects to all the Sundry School teachers also to Mrs & Mr. Robertson, James Knowlsons family & Mrs. Kerr and all friends of the family. My regards to all the young folks of my acquaintance. And my love to Uncle Waters, Aunt H., Lib, Eph, Delight & children, and to Em & Kill, & to Carrie & Job & the baby, & all the Greenwich folks when you write.

And with the greatest love & respect, I am as ever,

Your Aff Cousin

Waters

To Cousin Abbie

Camp of 93rd N. Y. Vols.
Near Falmouth, Va.
March 15th, 1863

Dear Em,

Your last letter was duly received and I can assure you met with a hearty reception. I was glad to hear from you at Union Village as it shows that Kill must have got over his sick spell. I am sorry to hear through Uncle Waters letter and also Libbies (to night) that Uncle Water's health is poor, but hope soon to hear of his entire recovery. The long coming box arrived last night. I was down to Aquia Creek and got it myself together with about Thirty other express boxes for the 93rd. Everything in the box with the exception of the pop-corn (which had got moist and soft) was just as good as when it left Troy. The plan of putting paper around the cake, is a good idea as they are all good. The pies also are splendid, and even the oranges & lemons were perfect, for all of which I am much obliged to you all.

I am sorry you had so much snow up to Greenwich, so that you could not circulate more, but still you must have given Carrie all the better visit. I suppose it is all right about Lew & Mary, for I think she is of a more suitable age for him than Joe would be. Besides I think she is the best one of the whole lot. Am sorry she is secesh though for it will be so much harder when he is drafted under the recent conscription act, how are your bank clerks, bookkeepers etc, what a sight of young married men there will be over 35 years of age. I hope the 93rd will be filled up from Troy & vicinity, of the nice young men of that clasic locality. We are being put in condition for a long and rapid march of some kind, that is the army is, the orders giving the officers only shelter tents does not apply to the 93rd, nor will it, if they move while I am a Q. M. Still we are drawing new tents, knapsacks, haversacks, etc. for the men, so as to be ready for any possible campaign, and if we have to leave our wall tents, why then we will, thats all, but not if we can possibly have them. We are not very badly off, for soldiers, I am tough as can be and fat as possible, for which good health I am very thankful, since so many of our best officers have resigned on Surgeons certificate of disability, since Jan'y 1st.

As usual we have lots of rumors every day, in regard to the taking of Vicksburg, the chance of the 93rd being brigaded and other matters of equal consequence to the country, but nothing reliable. In fact we are sure of nothing but our every other days storm, and our rations. By the way of variety we have for a storm (to night) hail & snow accompanied by thunder & lightning.

If nothing happens, I think I shall be in Washington some day this week, on regimental business, but shall not stay over 24 hours probably. I shall get my pay if possible when there. I stopped writing just here to make some hot lemonade as the intelligent contraband just at that crisis brought in the boiling water. It puts me in mind of some Kill made down to the old office.

Give my love to all the folks over home, and my respects to all Kills folks, the young ladies next door, and friends in general & believe me as ever, with love to Kill & yourself.

Your Aff. Cousin

Waters

To Em

Camp of 93rd N. Y. Vols.
Near Falmouth, Virginia
March 17th, 1863

Dear Uncle,

Your last I believe has been acknowledged, in both Em & Abbies letters. I regretted to learn of your ill health and hope it is improving ere this. I am still Acting Qr. Master, and shall be for a week to come and perhaps longer. To-day being "Saint Patricks day", the "Irish Brigade" are having a pretty loud time, and I dare say that two thirds of the Officers who claim that illustrious personage as their patron St. are tonight in fighting trim (according to their own idea) on commissary whiskey. We have had considerable firing this afternoon, on our right, up the river, said to be at "Banks ford", or the "U. S. ford". What was the occasion of the cannonading or the result is unknown in camp. It must have been fifteen miles from here at least.

I did expect to go to Washington this week, but really dont know whether I shall or not, probably not. The Box as I wrote Em arrived and everything was good but the pop-corn. The rest was splendid, and very acceptable in camp. The boots were satisfactory. I charged the young man they were for \$7.75 as I thought that would be about right. He was perfectly satisfied as well he might be, the Sutler's charge \$10 for an article greatly their inferior. I had a letter from my Father and Sister Abiatha, the old man's health seems to be very poor. He says he is threatened with the heart disease. I heard, not through him however, that the law suit in relation to his wives, fathers, farm, had been decided against him. I dont know whether he proposes to carry the case to a higher court or not.

There have been a great many changes in the 93rd since Jany 1st but strange to say not one that affects me in the least, nor do I think there will be soon.

When we are to commence a move I am unable to say, the orders in regard to Transportation & officers baggage are very strict and I doubt if they are fully complied with, not in the 93rd at all events. Although we dont think ourselves better than any-one else, and are willing to take our chance with the rest, still it is strange how naturally we do take to "wall tents" and "Soft bread".

Hoping hereafter to hear of your continued good health and the like of Aunt Hannah, and with love to all the family in Troy, West Troy & Washington Co., and respects to all the friends, young & old, I remain as ever.

Your Aff. Nephew

Waters W. Braman

To Uncle Waters

Camp of 93rd N. Y. Vols.
Near Falmouth, Va.
March 20th/63

Dear Lib,

Having acknowledged your last letter, it now remains for me to answer it. Dont ever get the idea that you write too often, for you know I never could be made to believe it, no sooner than that Hooker said what the papers say he did about "Little Mac". General Hooker has the confidence of the Army of the Potomac just as any other General would (of his ability) that was placid in command, good soldiers must respect and obey, without questioning their superiors, but this Army can never be made to have the confidence in, or love for any other Genl. that they did for McClellan. The 93rd still continue at Hdqrs., and although there are any number of other regiments trying to get the position, still we are probably elected to do the duty this season.

Col. Crocker has not yet returned but is expected to-morrow, and Tom Fuller will be back in about a week, and then I shall be relieved from present duty to do a more disagreeable duty, but I guess I can stand it, for I never felt better in my life than I do at present.

Our Cavalry had quite a brilliant engagement on St. Patrick's day, which resulted in filling the Hdqrs. guard-house full of "grey-backs" but you probably have the full accounts in the papers. We could hear quite a good deal of cannonading in the same direction yesterday, but with what result, have not heard. We have had very good weather lately but to-day have a snow storm-probably the last of the season, the days are pretty warm-now towards noon, to remind us that summer is almost upon us. I received the "Harpers Weekly" and also six "Troy Times" and three N. Y. Times, for which I am much obliged to you and Em. Enclosed I send a "photograph" of our Surgeon. Keep it for me, or for yourself if I never happen to want it. Shall probably send home some more of the officers as soon as they get them, for they all got some taken when home on furlough, but did not have time to wait for them to be finished.

I am not so anxious to leave Hdqrs now after we have done all the hard work, just as we would have easier times, (for the men I mean, the officers have it easy enough any-way), and are likely to get rid of _____, who has a sore on his face, (I hope it is not a cancer), and has asked to be relieved from duty in the field. If he is relieved probably Col. Crocker will be commandant. I hope so.

Give my respects to all the young folks of my acquaintance male & she-male. especially the latter, for I am going to get married in less than a year after the war is ended, or I get out of it. I dont know who the unfortunate one will be. Give my love to all the family at home or away, and do not rob yourself, but believe me as ever.

Your aff. cousin

To Libbie

Waters

Write soon, I keep doing so --

W

Camp of 93rd N. Y. Vols.
Near Falmouth, Va.
March 22 1863

Friend Maggie,

Somewhat but none the less agreeably surprised was I by receiving the Waverley, you were so kind in sending me, did circumstances permit should make an appropriate reply in the same style, as I think it quite an original way of saying "how are you" "I hope you are well" etc. Permit me to express my thanks for the kind thought which prompted that method of showing as well as words (or better perhaps) could express an interest in the welfare of a friend, as you can scarcely conceive the pleasure such a little attention on the part of ones friends, gives to a soldier, whose thoughts when off duty are constantly roveing homeward, and then his fancy necessarily pictures the forms and faces of those most dear. I trust the lack of facilities in the army for replying properly will ensure my pardon for addressing you. I should have written acknowledging your very appropriate note of the 8th of Feby, but feared, I dont know what exactly, only that our acquaintance was so slight it might be thought over-stepping the bounds of propriety, consequently I contented myself with acknowledging the favor through Bob.

It were useless for me to write any army news, as we wait for the N. Y. Papers to know each day who is in command of "the Army of the Potomac" and what of interest is going on therein. The Galliant 93rd still continues to guard the present abode and sleeping hours of the pugnaceous chieftain, who now commands this grand army. And the probability is we shall still hold this dangerous but honorable position, and after this week shall get rid of a pretty good friend of mine now "commandant of the post", and in his stead have our own Colonel, if so we shall have a better place than ever before, and I shall cease to pray as I have done lately that the regiment might be brigaded although I dont care how soon we are.

While out riding two weeks ago today I chanced to meet a Capt. David Getman of the 10th N. Y. Cavalry, who spoke of knowing your family, and learning I was recently in the classic village of West Troy, he very naturally enquired after you all, and expressed some surprise to learn that your Sister Sarah was Mrs. J _____. What a world of comfort they (Mr & Mrs J _____) did appear to take in married life, when Bob & myself called on them in Brooklyn.

I hear from & write to Bob occasionally, he being my advisor I dont pay much attention to his advice nor he to mine I guess.

With my respects to your Father & Mother, also Mr & Mrs Jones when you write and regards to yourself, I am with your permission.

Your Friend,

Waters W. Braman

To Miss Maggie Getty

(Note: He did not know it, but this was the young lady he was to marry - Miss Margaret Jane Getty of West Troy, now Watervliet, N. Y.)

J.L.B.

Camp of 93rd N. Y. Vols.
Near Falmouth, Va.
March 30th, 1863

Dear Cousin Libbie,

I am in receipt of Carries letter of the 20th and yours of the 25th but shall answer yours first, you being my reg. cor. and I aint sure of hearing from her again till she comes to Troy so as to have witnesses. We have the same story here about the spring over the river but as I am not very credulous, can hardly believe what we all so much desire, a speedy peace. The army dont want peace however on the same terms as our snakey friends of the north.

The army is in marching condition and as soon as the weather becomes settled we shall undoubtedly move, and that forward, probably within a week.

We still have _____ as _____, but live in hopes of being compelled to do without his valued presence, at an early day.

We have drills now with knap-sacks on to accustom the men to them, before the long marches begin. The sun is mighty hot now in the middle of the day and reminds us forcibly of what we may soon expect. I am catching it now on duty, officer of the guard about every third night, but I dont care. I can stand it, this is to pay for acting Q. M. & adjt.

We have had two more resignations of second Lieutenants, that young fellow whose picture I brought home, Lt. Beecher is one of them I am sorry for he is a pretty fine young man.

We have a secesh in our guard house that taken prisoner on St. Patricks day in the cavalry fight at "Kellys ford", and although dressed in a field officers uniform he claims to be a private and wanted to be paroled as such but Genl Patrick could not see it, he comrades called him Major but he insists that he is only a private, he will get sick of it I guess before he gets out of one of the most lovely guard houses where he can enjoy the best of society of deserters etc.

They are daily bringing back deserters to the Army and punish them pretty severely. I saw them drum a deserter out of camp over to the 2nd N. Y. about a fortnight ago. His head was shaved close and after being drummed twice past the brigade they branded him on the hip with a letter D to show he had deserted, and no officer dare enlist him again.

I am sorry to hear that Aunt Hannahs health is so poor. I see you have had a big freshet, did it do much damage?

Give my respects to all the young folks. My love to all in Troy and Washington Co. and West Troy of course and believe me as ever.

Your aff. cousin,

Waters

To Libbie

Camp of 93rd N. Y. Vols.
Near Falmouth, Va.
April 4th, 1863

Dear Uncle,

Yours of the 29th ult, arrived night before last. And as are all from home was very welcome, although I regret to hear of your own and Aunt Hannahs being afflicted with rheumatism, but with warm weather I trust you will both be free from that or any other ill. I had a little touch of the sick head-ache the other day the first for six months and over, but it only lasted a few hours and did not hinder me from going on guard the same day, and after it was over I felt all the better for it. I wrote to Kill last night saying that I would try to-day and get a pass for you and him to come down. I did try it but without success. I had heard that no more passes were being given at Washington so I thought I might get one here, but they told me that any proper person could still get a pass in Washington and as long as they were giving them there they could not do so from here. I think now would be the very best time in the whole year to see the Army just before, and perhaps just on a move, besides the weather is splendid. If you could come I could meet you at Aquia Creek, and I am sure now would be the most pleasant time, if possible for you to come. If you should be sure and write a day or two before you start so I could meet you. It is settled that the 93rd remains at Hdqrs. for the coming season, unless the Army of the Potomac should be broken up (not very likely). The President is here and is to review the entire Army beginning with Hdqrs, we are to be reviewed to-morrow at 9 o.c. The last new wrinkle on our horn is that Col Berdan claims that four of our companies were raised for him, and wants them, or else the whole regiment, but the 93rd cant see it. There was one co. you will remember that did claim to belong to Berdan's Sharp-Shooters, and wanted to have Sharps rifles, but they think they would just as soon stay at Hdqrs to, and in fact the idea of breaking up the regt. is preposterous, and I know we should not like the Sharp-shooters. They aint thought much of by the Infantry or any of the other troops.

We expect to be paid off for 4 months, (which will be to the 1st of March) almost every day. I hope it will be before we move. It will be so much better for the men to send it up home than if on a march. I dont think we will move under ten days to come however. With love to Aunt Hannah and all at home & all friends of the family, I remain as ever.

Your aff. Nephew

Waters W. Braman

To Uncle Waters

Camp of 93rd Infty. N. Y. Vols.
Near Falmouth, Va.
April 9th, 1863

My Dear Em,

As the last baby generally puts out of joint the noses of all previous ones, so yours of the 2nd Inst. being the last comer, supercedes all others. I should have answered it ere this but night before last Jo Little & myself got to wrestling, and I sprained my wrist not seriously however as you can judge by my writing now. And I guess it will be all right to-morrow. It did not hinder me from going to the "Grand Review" by the President of four Army Corps yesterday. Aside from that I am well and feel my union strong as ever. The President has Mrs. Lincoln and a little Lincoln along. And the consequence is we have more life at Hdqrs just now than ever before. All the lady visitors to the Army are here to pay their respects to Madam L -- so you see we have all the latest style and fashion. I wish Uncle Waters & Kill were here now. The weather is very fine and I am sure they would have a splendid time. Why dont Kill come any-way.

I have just recd a letter from Libbie and also three Troy papers and a "Frank Leslie" also two N. Y. Papers from Kill. I believe I have received all you have sent and am very much obliged for them. "About the news in them being stale" stands thus. We get the "Washington Chronicle" every day (of the same morning) which being the government paper (which accounts for its getting through regularly) we get all the war news that is proper for soldiers to hear, but as we but seldom get any N. Y. Papers, they are very acceptable as they show the Political feeling north and the Editors being chaps of inventive minds, we sometimes get news of more than does really happen. A kind of news which always takes well in camp, If half the stories in camp were to be believed, we have taken Charleston, Vicksburg, and a dozen other places of more or less importance, in the last few days.

When we shall move is more than I can tell. Matters are not so favorable for a speedy move, as they appeared to be ten days ago, and I doubt if we do leave this before two or three weeks at least.

To-morrow there is to be an exact muster of this entire Army, with the view of ascertaining the number of Conscripts required to fill up each old regiment to the maximum number. Your Idea about the young men getting married to evade the draft is a wrong one as they must not only be in that blessed state, but be thirty-five years old also. What a great number there will be just over that age. That "Conscription Bill" just suits the Army to a "T".

Give my respect to your fair neighbors. I suppose Mary is all the more taken up with Lew that his age is so near that now magic number, that renders his chance of being drafted very improbable.

Give my love to all the folks over home. And my respects to all Kills folks and all friends, my tenderest regards to all the young ladies. With assurances of sincere love & respect for yourself & Kill and the kindest wish for continued prosperity and never ending happiness. I am as ever

Your Aff. Cousin

Waters

To Emma

Camp of 93rd N. Y. Vols.
April 12th, 1863

Dear Lib -

Yours of the 5th Inst. and also the "Frank Leslie" are received. I can not conceive why you did not receive any letter from me in almost two weeks, for I intend to write once a week at least. About that time however there were but two or three of the old Lieut's for duty, the new ones in place of those resigned have to go on guard with one of the old ones so as to learn the duty, and that brought me on guard about every second or third night. Now I only have to go on duty about once in six or seven days.

Major Haller went home about a week ago sick and we never expect to see him again. Col Crocker is commandant, and as the entire regiment, officers & men will try to do the duty in the most satisfactory manner there is no danger of our going into a brigade this season.

We have had to-day a review by General Patrick (the Provost Marshall General of the Army) it was the best we ever had and the General said the 93rd looked better and marched better than any he saw during the grand review, while the President was here. And you may be sure he would not say so if such were not the fact. And he had a good chance to judge as in his official capacity he was present at all of them.

The President has returned to Washington and in his place we have some European General. I dont know his name but believe he is a Swede. The weather here continues fine we have scarcely had a cloud in a week and not a drop of rain. Consequently the roads are in splendid condition & what we are waiting for, no one knows. Little Mac was slow & cautious, but I believe he was on the move before this time, on the peninsula. I suppose you have seen the account (in the papers) of the investigating committee in regard to the Army of the Potomac. I think it is a political thing any-way. And I do not think lessens McC's character for ability. Still I believe in supporting the Administration and if their Report be true, his removal was proper. Only he should not be drawing the pay he now is without doing the country some service.

Enclosed I send another Photograph of our late Asst Surgeon now surgeon of the 61st N. Y. We have a new asst surgeon in his place (Wilcox by name). With love to all I remain as ever.

Your aff. cousin

Waters

P. S. I am very glad to learn of Aunt Hannahs improved state of health. Will write to her in a few days.

W -

X I send the report by to days mail. Keep it. X

Camp of 93rd N. Y. Vols.
April 14th, 1863

Dear Aunt,

As we are expecting to march to-morrow, and if so shall probably have a long one (if at all) I thought it would be well to write to night so if you dont hear from me in a week to come you may know it is because there is no good chance to write, for although we may have a fight lasting for two or three days, still we are ordered to march light and with eight days rations. The only extra clothing the men are to be allowed to carry is one "Shirt" and one pair of "Socks", and the remainder we have sent with extra baggage of all kinds to Washington. We have had to give up our Wall Tents, and instead have an "A" tent (just as good in summer). All the baggage I have now is my valise and two blankets and one of them I expect to carry myself. We expect and are prepared for hard marches. I would not be surprised if, we did not fight the Rebels here but, that the Army will join two Divisions & cross above and below Fredericksburg. Yesterday there was a very large force of Cavalry, Light Artillery and Infantry marched up to the right, and if they are successfull in crossing, then over we go to (probably some way below here however). This is very sudden the result perhaps of the Presidents visit.

I recd Abbies letter last evening. I am very glad to hear that your own as well as Uncle Waters health is so much better, and I trust you will both be spared to see our country restored to peace & union, and to enjoy that peace, in health for many years to come.

We were expecting our Paymaster to-day but he has not arrived perhaps he may come to-morrow. A great portion of the Army have been paid. I think we should have had ours before but we have a new Paymaster.

I had a letter from Lydia last week and it was so long since I had heard direct from her, I answered it almost immediately. I am very sorry Uncle & Kill could not come down now for it has been the best time I ever saw to see the Army. There have been a great many citigens down and I am sure they could have got through. I believe if I had been able to get them a pass they would have come and am very sorry I could not. When I could have done so, Major Haller had me in "Arrest" but never mind, although we were pretty good friends again before he left, I hope he wont come back again, and if he dont I had just as soon serve out our time here as not for we have good times now and the men do the duty up in style too. 10 o.c. P. M. we have no orders yet to march, but we may have, and are all ready for it. If we do I will write the first and every chance I can get.

Give my love to all at home, and to all the Washington Co. folks. And believe me as ever.

Your Aff. Nephew

Waters

Camp Near Falmouth, Va.
Wednesday, April 22nd 1863

Dear Cousin Libbie,

Your last was received when "on guard", and to save my life I can-not find it now. And consequently if answered at random you must excuse it. I last evening received one from Uncle Waters and shall answer it to-night or to-morrow enclosing some money probably \$300 for my-self and \$20 for another, so he may expect it by express. The regiment was paid off to-day for four months, that is up to the 28th day of February. It was by the greatest good fortune that we got paid before this move commences, and as one of our officers (Lt. Bramhall) goes to Washington to-morrow with a squad of men in charge of Prisoners, it will be a good chance for all, to send any money they desire to, home, I think now of availing myself of the opportunity to send mine. I wrote to Carrie yesterday, and although I can't expect her to write as promptly as yourself still I expect to hear from her "in the course of time", you dont know when she will be in Troy do you? so I can make calculations on writing again myself.

Everything is in readiness for a move and if necessary a fight, and I should not be surprised if the ball opened before daylight to morrow. I really do hope this campaign will be a successful one, for we need some-thing to infuse new life into the Country, at this time. I am glad to hear of Ephs probable success out west and really do hope for his own and family's sake, that the speculation may prove an entire success. Am also glad to hear by all of the last letters from home of the improved health of Aunt Hannah, and hope such may be the future news in that respect, and in regard to all of you. As for myself I could not possibly feel better than just now, with good health and lots of money, and probably a spirited campaign about to open under favorable auspices. I receive all the papers sent by you and Em and it is needless to say I am "much obliged" as you know I am.

Very fortunately, when all the other officers "turned in" their wall tents, we kept ours, intending to leave or destroy it when we moved, it being condemned, so it will be no loss to us. So we have had the benefit of it during the last two storms, which with a stove we foraged in a cavalry camp has made us very comfortable.

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

Your aff. cousin,

Waters

To Cousin Libbie

Camp Near Falmouth Va.
Thursday April 23rd 1863

My dear Uncle,

Yours of the 16th Inst I received last evening, or rather the evening before last, and as I wrote to Libbie in answer to her last, I should hardly write now, only that we have been paid off, and a good chance offering to send the money to Washington to be expressed, so I avail my self of the "chance" and as this is almost a business letter, I will write you in a few days, probably not from this camp. Enclosed I send \$320.00/100 of which \$300 is for myself and \$20 is for Peter McDonnell. Will you be kind enough to send me an account of how my own and also Peters account stands on your books to date.

We were paid up to the last of February, leaving almost two months now due but of course we could not be paid for that time as we have not been mustered for pay for the last two months. That event takes place at the end of every second month and will be on the last day of this month.

I have saved about a hundred dollars - for my own use this time, it is the most I ever kept, but I think we are going to have a pretty rough time. I was just about writing for some money when we heard the Paymaster was on the way to camp. I had just about little debts enough owing to me to pay what few I owed, something new for me even to owe the sutler but as we expected to be paid off almost daily, I did not write for any money although I thought of it often.

About your advice I think just about as you do, and I shall profit by it.

With love to All the family and respects to all your-and-my-own friends I remain, as ever.

Your Aff. Nephew

Waters

Enclosed

W. W. B.	\$300.00/100
P. McD.	20.
	<hr/>
	\$320.00

P. S. I wish Libbie would send me by mail, about four pair of those thick cotton socks,

& oblige,

W -

Camp of 93rd N. Y. Vols.
Near Falmouth, Va.
Wednesday April 29/63

Dear Em

Yours of the 23rd was received also Libbies (to night) containing the other Postage stamps, for which trouble I am very much obliged to you both.

There is no Particular news, as I suppose you are doubtless aware ere this of the move, other than to let you know how it is with the 93rd. We have not as yet moved. The move begun last evening, and this morning, before the Rebs knew of any move, they found a whole brigade of Yankees on their side of the river, the result of which was the firing of a few volleys of musketry, and the taking of a hundred and over prisoners. Three bridges have been built and it is said, that four "army Corps" are across the river.

The crossing this time was done above and below instead of opposite the city of Fredricksburgh. To-night or to-morrow morning the fight will begin in earnest, and probably to night, as we can occasionally hear a few shots, and I dont think that Hooker intends to give them much time to prepare themselves this time.

There has been but very little cannon firing.

We are said to have some gun boats down the River which facilitated the building of some of the bridges.

You must have been very lonely while Kill was gone. I hope he wont be drafted you would break your heart then certain.

I would like to have been at your "party"- and although there is no use wishing for impossibleties still if we can whip the Rebs now, there is no telling how soon we may all be home again, for everything seems to look favorable for the union cause. The Rebs are certainly short of ration, and if the deserters are to be believed, there are a great many in their army that dont care about fighting.

There was some trouble yesterday in the 27th N. Y. Vols (2years troops) about their time being nearly up, the result was about 75 or 80 of them are in the "guard house" here in camp, and probably some of them will take a trip to the "Dry Tortugas", for disobediance of orders.

I will write to Libbie in the morning so as to keep you all posted. With love to all the folks over home, and respects to all of Kills folks, I remain with everlasting love to yourself & Kill.

As ever

Your aff. cousin,

Waters

To Em

9 P. M.

Camp of 93rd N. Y. V.
Near Falmouth Va.
Friday May 1st 1863

Dear Libbie:

Your last, containing the Postage Stamps arrived safely. I wrote to Em that a movement had begun, it has, and is still in progress, with more or less fighting, which has been mostly on the right. The force which crossed below is evidently only for the purpose of holding their main force there, while our main attack is made on the right. There has been considerable firing in that direction this afternoon and it is reported that we have a large force in rear of their left flank. Still the fight will evidently be a severe one. None the less so far the delay, the prospect is very fair for our success, the officers all feel confident, and everything seems in our favor.

All our regiment but the guard, are ordered to march at 2 O.C. in the morning, with three days rations, to defend and guard a temporary telegraph line on the other side of the river, which it is feared the Rebel Cavalry will try to cut and destroy (a very easy thing to be done) and which would do us great damage. I do not know as I am going, but if possible shall do so, if so you need not be alarmed for I do not consider it very dangerous. We are all glad of the chance for a change to the everlasting guard duty. I hope I shall go, for whoever stays behind will be on duty all the time until the detachment rejoins the Hdqrs.

About that story of the submarine telegraph, it is so stated and believed here & I guess was a fact, not at all surprising either, but very possible indeed. I was down to Falmouth the next day and was told it by the guards there.

The Provost Guard House at Hdqrs has about 300 secesh prisoners, taken today by our cavalry, while they were trying to build a bridge, above our forces for the Rebel (Stuarts) cavalry to make a dash over, which not at all pleasing our cavalry they made a dash and the bridge builders sleep to-night in our guard House.

I was down to the left this morning and saw some thousands of the Rebs in line of battle in easy gun shot of our own line. Tomorrow will probably see some warm work I trust with success to the Union Arms.

With love to all I am as ever

Waters

To Cousin Libbie

P. S.

Enclosed I send a "Photograph" of our Major, taken on his arrival in Washington, from Richmond.

W

Saturday morning - The Detachment to guard the telegraph has not gone yet. I don't know yet as I am going or not. W

9 O. C. Saturday. They are fighting like blazes. W

Camp of 93rd N. Y. V.
Hdqs. A of Pot.
May 10th 1863

Dear A. J.

Your last was received, read, and would have been answered ere this, but from lack of news, other than you have daily in the papers. The 93rd are "just bully" the only effects of the fight on them, was in the shooting of the Col's horse the night we were building the bridges. There are detachments of our regiment being daily sent to Washington with prisonors, and this morning there is a squad goes to Annapolis (Md) to bring on some of our paroled & exchanged prisonors to their regiments. That kind of duty is rather pleasant as it is a change from the monotony of camp life. I have not been with any of the details yet, but my turn will come soon.

The "Troy Second" start for Albany to-morrow, the boys feel pretty good over it, they expect to have a grand time on their arrival in Troy. I saw Genl Carr yesterday he is in command of a divission now and in a fair way to get another * on his shoulder. I hope he may for he is a good officer. The prospect is that we are going to give the Rebs another try, the pontoons are moving now and I think the army will cross to night wind weather and "Genl Lee" permitting, with what success remains to be seen. Have not heard from R. I. G. in a long time, but I guess he is all regular, somewhat demoralized however.

I really do hope Eph will be successfull in his Wabash speculation, he got out of the Army in a good time and you better believe he left a sick captain behind him, I saw Jim Selleck and he misses Eph very much, and envies him more.

Give my love to all the folks over the river, remember me to all your folks, to your secsh neighbours, and all. And with everlasting regards for yourself and Em, I remain as ever.

Yours Truly

Waters

To Kill

Camp of 93rd N. Y. Vols.
Near Falmouth Va.
May 13th 1863

Dear Lib,

Since receiving your last, there has been nothing of any interest to found a reply. Everything is just as it was the day after the battle, with the army with the 93rd, we have moved camp, but only to get better ground, and but a few rods. Enclosed I send a stone sheep, dog, or something else that I found in levelling off the ground for our tent. You can keep it, or give it to the children, it dont amount to much any-way.

I can tell you why Alex Knowlson has not heard from me direct is because I have not, from him, any you may tell him that I should be very happy to hear from him - and shall certainly answer his favor.

The Army have all eight days rations again, and two or three nights the pontoons have been on the move, and we have almost thought that another move was about to begin. It is all a humbug about the Army being dissatisfied and demoralized, for it is not so . The 6th Army Corps do feel a little sore that after they took the fortifications in rear of Fredericksburg, that they should be ordered to leave them and join the Army on the right, when they could have held them as well as not. The greatest confidence exists in Genl Hooker. He is certainly no coward, and that pleases the men and if needed would cover a multitude of other deficiencies. McClellan could have done the same that he did and in all probability would so if not better.

It is reported that Stonewall Jackson is dead. The Rebels had funeral services over in the City last evening or rather yesterday afternoon at which they had a brass band and a great deal of ceremoney. It is supposed for Jackson.

I believe I acknowledged the receipt of the stockings, if I did not I am very much obliged. I received a letter from Abbie last eve, and if somebody will only do something shall answer it soon. What do you think of Stonemans cavalry raid, don't it rather take the shine off of Stuart. One of the men who enlisted in the 2nd Cav out of our Co. was killed on the raid. Pat, An's husband did not go as his horse was broke down. With love to Uncle Waters, Aunt Hannah Abbie, Delight the children and to Eph when any of you write. To Em & Kill, and my respects to all, the Park Church folks old & young, and believe me sincerely.

Your aff. cousin

Waters

Camp of 93rd N. Y. V.
May 15th 1863

Dear Cousin Abbie,

Your kind favor of the 7th inst was received and fully appreciated. We have no news of importance, the Army is still lying still. Genl Hooker is in Washington and all is quiet. Our forces have laid a bridge across the river up to the "United States ford" for the purpose of bringing over our wounded that fell into the hands of the Rebels. One piece of rather sad news is, that our Major (Cassidy) fell, last evening and broke his leg, very bad indeed, while going from Capt Mc Conihe's tent to his own in the dark. It is a compound fracture of the ankle and he is really in a very critical condition indeed. Our Surgeon says it will be severe on the major. And my opinion is that it will unfit him for service in the field.

The reason why I did not mention Mary's letter, in one of the others, was that I expected to acknowledge it to her the next day, but you know we had a little lively work just then, and so it was delayed, not intentionally by me however, as I was really glad to hear from her. And come to think of it I believe it was only a couple of days before I did write to her.

I have not the slightest idea of what the next move will be and there is nothing of interest to write. The two-year troops are being sent off daily as their time expire. You have probably heard the Washington Co. folks speak of the 123d which was organized at Salem, they were in the fight over the river and lost very heavily, and left their "colors" on the field, which were re-captured by Sickles corps from the Rebels. The 123d feel pretty sore over it, as indeed they may. Remember me to all the young folks of my acquaintance. My respects to Dominee Robertson and wife, and all the "park church" folks.

Give my Love to Uncle Waters, Aunt Hannah, Libbie, Em, Kill, Delight, the children, and to Carrie & Job & Lyd & Joe, when you write & believe me as ever.

Your aff. cousin

Waters

To Cousin Abbie

Camp of 93rd N. Y. Vols.
Near Falmouth, Va.
May 16th 1863

My Dear Em,

You may be prompt in answering "Kill's" letter, the next day, but I answer yours immediatly as it is just received. In regard to that "extract" from some newspaper, (I suppose the Whiz) I did not write it neither do I know who is the author. Uncle Waters was right in regard to their not being my sentiments. Although I am still a great admirer of McClellan, still I believe it to be the duty of every one especially an officer in the army to support the government, aside from personal likes or dislikes, and am very sorry there should be a Capt in the 93rd who thinks differantly while he pockets Uncle Sams money once in two months.

I have been absent all day with a detail preparing the ground for a new camp of Hdqrs about a mile from here, as it would be easier to move to new ground, than to police the present camp sufficient to make it fit for summer camping ground. On our return to camp we found the Regt. under orders to go to Aquia Creek to do provost duty, as it appears the Regiment that was there has not been doing their duty in a satisfactory manner, but as our Regiment contains more men than would be required, I believe now it is proposed to send the 5 companys of the 8th Infantry (U.S.A.) and put us in their place, and have the 20th N. Y. S. M. here to do the duty we have been doing. We shall be just as much at Hdqrs only our duty will be more, the charge of prisoners more immediately under the eye of the Provost Marshall General, besides we shall get rid of all the police duty. I dont know for certain as it will be so but that is the talk, we will obey orders at any rate. As there is at present no prospect of my haveing any more of those photographs, although I have some promised, I send you a picture of our tent and the three officers of Co "C" which we had taken last evening just at "sun down". The Intelligent con-dividual in the back ground is the best nigger in Virginia. I only wish I had a hundred just such.

So Miss Ginnie is coming up to visit west Troy again, Mary will have to look out for her beaux, as Lewis my change his mind. I guess not however for I think Mary is just the nicest girl in the whole lot. Ginnie excepted of course. She must have her eye on somebody however she comes up so often.

We heard how severely you were all fooled in McClellans route to the Rebel Capitol, we did not hear any such report here, especially in regard to this army fighting, but any one who thinks this army is not in fighting trim are either ignorant or malignant, or desire to make capital for McC- at the expense of Hooker.

My regards to the young ladies next door who were kind enough to remember me, also to Miss Ginnie & Tate on their arrival. Give my love to all the folks over home, remember me to all of Kill's folks and the Union Villagers when you write, and believe me with continued love and esteem for yourself and Kill, as ever

Your Cousin
Waters

P. S. Bob G. lies about his hearing from me once or twice a week. I have neither recd nor written a letter to him in six weeks and he is always finding fault because I always wait for him to write, he is just the greatest Bob & Humbug of the age.

W —

We have just had to relieve the 8th Infty guard, so it is certain then we are to take their place, it is a good place, and I am glad of it. W -

Camp of 93rd N. Y. Vols.
Near Falmouth Va.
May 24th 1863

Dear Lib,

Your letter written on Sunday last, did not arrive untill last evening, while the papers did a night or two before. In one of the Troy papers I find a paragraph which I enclose, and I will bet anything it is taken from my last letter to you. If it was I hope you do not intend to make a practice of letting them make extracts from my letters, although that one is no harm, even if it was from one of mine. I should have written to Uncle Waters this week and in fact was on the point of doing so two or three times but have not done so merely from a lack of news of any sort. We have moved camp during the past week but only about a mile, just for the sake of getting "new ground", and the old name of Camp near Falmouth is still retained. We are encamped this time right in the woods, and are as cool and comfortable as the pretty warm weather will permit. The 22nd & 30th N. Y. which you remember encamped at Batestown, are expecting to start for home this week. Walter Fillman is now in our camp, he is a Capt still,

I am glad that Troy gave the 2nd such a glorious reception for they certainly deserved it. One of our Capts gave the Lt Col of the 20th N. Y. "fits" for saying that the 2nd ran at the battle over at Chancellorville and I guess if it had not been for others something serious might have happened.

One day last week our "line officers" got together, and in a petition to _____, very politely asked him to resign, but I am afraid he either cant or else wont "see it"; every officer in the "line" signed it but one. It cant be very flattering to him any way, as he must be pretty well satis-fied, as to what the officers think of him. If we were on any duty that would require his services, we could soon get rid of him, as he would be certain to do what ever he did, wrong, but now he has nothing to do.

Enclosed I send you two more photographs one of a Capt in our Regt that was dismissed last summer, and of a first Lieut in Co "B" he is here now.

Capt Barnes wife is sick, and he talks of getting a furlough to go home, but if he succedes, it will be for so short a time that he will have to hurry around.

You can't expect me to write as long a letter as you did, because no one has done anything to write about. The army are just as they were and are ready for the word to move. As for myself, I am well, as usual, and hope to keep so.

Give my love to all, Uncle, Aunt, Abbie, Em, Kill, Delight, Eph and all, remember me to all enquiring friends, and believe me as ever.

Your aff. Cousin

Waters

To Libbie

Camp of 93rd N. Y. Vols.
Near Falmouth Va.
May 27th 1863

Dear Uncle,

Yours of the 22nd came to hand last evening. I should have written you, without waiting for you to write but as I was about to write you along would come a letter from one of the girls, and to answer them required all the news afloat. We are still at Hdqrs as the order send us to Aquia Creek was countermanded and the 8th Infantry went in our place, and we have been doing their duty too. They are to be back to-night, as it was only temporary their going at all, because just as there was such a number of 2 year regiments going home, some of the men who had enlisted in them for 3 years, were trying to get off too.

General Hooker is just returned from Washington, and the probability is that the army will make a move immediately, to prevent the rebels from drawing off their forces to reinforce their other armies, and if they have already drawn off any of their force, to whip them if possible.

Libbie enquired as to the number of cannon the army left across the river. I could not tell when I wrote her but have since ascertained from Capt Flagler, the Ordinance officer of this army, that we lost eight guns & captured Nine, that is his official report, and is reliable.

I have just received a letter from Mary and will answer soon. Enclosed I send you an order which was read on dress parade today. As you will probably hear of it, you may as well know the facts in the case, but need not show or keep the order.

Capt Barnes has made an application for 20 days furlough, but failed, as since the news from Vicksburgh we are likely to move any minute and all "leaves of absence" are stopped for the present.

I am glad we did not go to Aquia Creek, for if we should be stationed there all summer it would not be very pleasant, as it is very unhealthy, all the drinking water has to be brought from Potomac Creek, about eight miles.

The prospect is we shall soon get two months pay again, probably within a fortnight.

With love to All Aunt Hannah Lib Abbie Em Kill Delight, Eph & the children & to all the Washington County folks when you write, also all of my friends in Troy. I remain as ever,

Your Aff. Nephew,

W. W. Braman

To Uncle Waters
Troy

Camp of 93rd N. Y. Vols.
May 30th 1863

Dear Uncle,

Enclosed I send a check on the "Assistant Treasurer" at New York for Two Hundred & fifteen Dollars (215.00) of which you will please pay to Mr. McConihe, who will call for it, Sixty five (65) Dollars, which Capt McConihe desired me to send as he had already got a check for his own, the balance \$150.00 please place to my credit. It is needless to say that we were yesterday paid for two months, to April 30th.

There is not the slightest news. One sergeant Fred Myers returned yesterday and of course I received all the articles sent, for which I am much obliged, to all. The sergeant is one of the best men in our Co, and indeed in the regiment, he is the Color Bearer. I am glad you invited him down to the house, and he was much pleased, he thinks you are about right. I have Capt McConihe some of the cake and he complimented it highly. Fred would make me take the Brandy, and I will keep it for sickness. I fear it will be needless, but there is no danger of it spoiling in the army.

I am well, and hope your health continues good, and will for years to come. With Love to all Aunt, Lib, Abbie, Delight, Eph, the children, Em & Kill and all. Hoping to with you, at some future day I remain as ever.

Your aff Nephew

Waters W. Braman

To Uncle Waters

P. S. Will write to Mary in a day or so. McDonnell did not send any this time.
In haste,

Waters

Capt McConihe	\$65.00
W. W. B.	<u>150.00</u>
	\$215.00

Camp of 93rd N. Y. V.,
June 5th, 1863

Dear Lib:

Yours, complaining of my negligence was received in due time. The fact is, your letter before this (written on Sunday) was five days on the route, and I was impatient myself, although I ascribed it to something besides negligence.

Our forces are again across the river, and are now fighting as hard as they can. It is believed that the Rebels are drawing off a portion, if not all of their forces, and I should not be surprised if we got orders to march before morning. We are already for it, the Army has moved.

You may be sure that Fred Myers would say a good word for me, and if you had given him a hundred pounds to bring, he would certainly try it. I don't believe I ever went on Picket or on any other dangerous duty while we were in a brigade, without he went along. He thinks the subscriber is all right and I would like to see anyone could make him think otherwise. I did get his furlough through for him, and if he had waited twenty-four hours, nary one would he have got. He did not want to go in the winter when the furloughs were being given, but his sister was not expected to live, and he was feeling pretty bad about it, and so we tried the furlough and succeeded. And to hear him you would think he could never say enough to show his obligation to me. His sister is better now but with consumption her life is very uncertain. I think the world of Fred, too, and hope to see him wear shoulder straps soon; if I can do it, he will. I am much obliged to you and Em for the things. He would make me take the Brandy, and I have got it safe, and if the cork stays in till I want some of it, I think it would be in at the end of the war; but the chances are, that it will be useful to some one and away it goes, and if I wanted it myself, would try some but I never did take very kindly to medicine of any sort, and thank the Lord I am in a highly convalescent state of health and hope to remain so.

We got our pay about a week ago. We have another new paymaster, a great improvement on either of the others; we got our pay this time pretty prompt and wont get it so quick again, for we wont be mustered for pay untill the last of this month.

If this move amounts to anything, I will write to Em tomorrow.

With love to all, Uncle, Aunt, Abbie, Delight, the children, Em and Kill, and to Carrie, Job, Lyd and Joe and to Little Abbie when you write, I remain as ever,

Your aff. Cousin,

WATERS.

TO LIB.

P. S. The army is crossing as fast as possible; we shall probably have to go down to help build some bridges; the Rebs show fight.

W.

Remember me to all the young folks.

W.

C O P Y

Camp of 93rd N. Y. Vols.
June 13th/63

Dear Cousin Abbie,

We are all packed up, and expecting to move at day light in the morning. Yours of (the date I forget as the letter is packed up) was received. What this move is, I can not tell. We still have forces across the River below here, and so have the Rebels, yet we are expecting to march towards Cotlets Station on the orange and Alexandria Rail Road. It is certain this position is not to be abandoned as we are leaving forces, and all the sick behind us. The detail for taking down the Hdqrs tents is already made, so we are going certain. I received Libbies last, yesterday.

Our Major is still at Washington with his sick leg, and if he is not going to return I wish he would resign, for Capt Barnes being the Senior Capt would give me a chance, if he stepped up a peg, as he undoubtedly will if the vacancy occurs.

There is no news of any kind, but what you have in the papers as soon as we do. I am well and ready for the march, or any-thing that may happen to the 93rd.

We have had continued dry weather for some time back, and is very dusty on the road's, but it looks like rain and I guess the dust will be settled by morning.

I hope you will all have a good time on your trip down the river, I should think it just the thing for Aunt Hannah and hope she will go and enjoy herself and return in better health than ever. I think it would do Uncle Waters good if he went along too.

Does Mr Knight make as good a Superintendant as he to, does Alexander still occupy the lofty position of Scratchetary, I hope you will have more teachers, you must draw in some of the lately returned Sogers, if their morals are not to much corrupted in the army, they would make good teachers, they could tell the young ones such stories. Give my love to all the folks, and remember me to all the Park Church folks, & believe me as ever.

Your aff. Cousin

Waters

(In haste)

Camp of 93rd N. Y. Vols.
At Fairfax Station
June 16th 1863

Dear Lib,

This is the first chance to write since we started from Falmouth, on Sunday morning at daylight. I wrote to Abbie just before we began to take down the Hdqrs tents, but as the mails must necessarily be irregular, I fear she has not yet received it. We marched bringing everything, and all the sick, the first day came twenty-one miles, yesterday, about nineteen and to-day about nine miles, to this place, we expect to march in the morning, by daylight, and have been to-day sending off all baggage that could be possibly dispensed with.

We do not know where we are to go to from here, I guess towards Leesburgh and then follow the Rebels up. The excitement is great in Washington and doubtless all through the north. I hope the north will at last see the necessity of supporting the government and if necessary submit to a draft.

The Rebels must have an immense force as we left full as many behind at Fredericksburgh as at the time of the last battle, their force is said to be two hundred thousand men, if the militia of Pennsylvania are to attack them in front, we certainly will give them fits in their rear. Their cavalry followed us close on the march untill we crossed the Occaquon Creek, and there was barely time to take up the pontoons ere they were there. The march was very severe on the men, as it was our first long march in over seven months, and it was terrible hot, and we were obliged to march in rear of the train, (as from there the danger was to come if at all) and that of course made it very dusty. Our Army brought away every kind of property, even to the condemned mules & horses we had a drove of cattle along with us with only fifteen hundred head of cattle in it, all the property at Aquia Creek was saved, of every description.

A great many in the Army will be and now are sick from the excessive marching, still I am in hopes we shall be able to whip the Rebels. Although they are double the Army of the Potomac in number, that is with the aid we shall receive from the hastily raised troops from Pa. & N. Y. At any rate be you certain the Army of the P -- will strain every nerve and have the fullest confidence in Genl. Hooker, to do all possible in human power to do, and let us hope for the best. The army are not much scared if the north and the Washington officials are, I will write to you every chance I can get, and dont be alarmed for me I stood the march tip-top and never felt better in my life.

With love to Uncle Aunt, Abbie Delight the children Em & Kill, and to Lyd & Joe, Carrie & Job and all the Washington County folks when you write. I remain as ever I hope to while there is breath in my body.

Your aff coz.

Waters

To Lib

This is not much of an answer to yours, but you know I am well, at least and I will try and answer yours in my next. Good night -- W.

Camp of 93rd N. Y. Vols.
Near Fairfax C. H.
June 21st 1863

Dear Uncle,

In writing to the others of the family I fear I have somewhat neglected you, but it is not intentional on my part.

Headqrs is encamped about a mile from Fairfax Court House on the road to Centreville the direct route to Bull River where it is expected the next great battle will come off. In fact we can hear cannonading in that direction this morning. The most of the fighting so far since the Army left Falmouth has been by the Cavalry. The 93rd had quite a number of men gobbled up by the rebels on that march. Also two or three of the officers from headqrs were taken prisoners.

Col. Crocker has gone to Washington sick (so am I just as much), he is tricky and there can be no reliance placed on his word now days, he dont take much interest in the regiment, and would sooner hang around hdqrs than do so.

Enclosed I send Fourteen Dollars which I wish you to credit to Peter McDonnell, he did not give it to me untill just before we came on the march or I should have sent it before. And now I think of it if Libbie has not got an Album I wish you would get a nice one, and have it mar- with her name, and give it to her, for me, get as nice an one as you can, and charge it to my account.

Captain Barnes talks some of resigning, but as he is the senior Capt and there is a possibility of Major Cassidy never recovering so as to resume his duties in the field, I think he will hold on untill that is decided, I know he wants to be at home as his wife is very poor in health and is at him continually, still I think he would like to be Major first.

I do not know who will be Command't of the Post in the absence of the Col. but do not think it will make any difference or change with us.

We are only about Fifteen or sixteen miles from Washington, but are under orders to march towards Leesburg, and are not likely to get much nearer, and I hope we may not be compelled to go any there with the Army. I hope the plain of Manassas so often fatal to our arms will this time witness a glorious victory for us.

With love to Aunt, Lib, Abbie, Em, Kill Delight & Eph and family, and to all the friends of the family, I remain as ever,

Your aff. Nephew,

Waters

(In haste)

Camp of 93rd N. Y. Vols.
Near Frederick City MD.
June 28/63

Dear Lib,

Your last, I received while at Fairfax Court House just before starting, which place we left day before yesterday, and marched the first day Thirty-three miles to Poolsville, Md, and yesterday Twenty one miles to this place. The 93rd beat the 8th Infantry about ten miles, the first day we were expecting the train would be attacked by the Guerrillas, and accordingly, one of the Captains (Smith) & myself had charge of an advance guard and marched about a mile ahead of the train but nary gorril did we see. This march has been the longest the 93rd ever made in two consecutive days. This country is beautiful the city is ditto, and the girls likewise. I am going to church this morning, the first time since leaving Troy, for the only time we have had religious services since, I was on guard.

The Rebs are said to be at South Mountain and Antietam , and are said to be in force. I dont believe Lee means to fight Hooker, but will carry off all his plunder from P.a. and this state, for the county where they are is just as loyal, and I think more so, than Rensselear County N. Y. and they will be sure to steal all they can from the inhabitants.

This move leaves me behind hand with my letters for I owe Mary and Kill each one, but will write to one of them to morrow, if I hear any news or know where we are going to. I think some we shall move tomorrow again. General Hooker went on to Harpers ferry yesterday. There may be a chance for him to try the same ground that Little Mc did, and perhaps he may do better, I hope so, but if he does as well I shall be satisfied.

Give my love to all Uncle, Aunt, Abbie, Delight, Eph & family, Em Kill & family, and the Union Villiage folks when you write, and believe me as ever.

Your aff Cousin

Waters

To Libbie

You must excuse this being so short, but the others are waiting for me to go to church. W --

Camp of 93rd N. Y. Vols.
Near Torrytown Maryland
June 30th 1863

Friend Kill,

Have you got the side-cut fortified, if not I think you had better begin, and in about a week of such marching as we have had lately the 93rd can defend the works, we are within a mile or so of the Pennsylvania line. But we are tough, and for myself I feel better than I did in camp at Falmouth. We can get all we want to eat at every house (no god forsaken Virginia about this state) and there is no end to cherries along the road. This is just a bully state for nice farms and handsome women, and they are Union to the Back-bone. The Army never was through this part of the state and they think it a big thing, and that we are going to drive Johny Reb right back. I hope so, but am mighty afraid he will crawl out (with all his plunder) through some hole, and pull the hole after him, and we be none the wiser untill he is gone, I only hope they will fight, thats all.

I dont have any thing to say about Uncle Joe being relieved of his command, better men than he have suffered the same fate and have lived through it. I think the 93rd will survive this change in the Administration, also. Who do you think I came across yesterday? (John , who you remember ran away from me the day we left Albany), on the march from Frederick City M.D. to Middle-burg, and of course he recognized me and I him and we made up the old affair, and I have taken him as belonging to our company, and regiment, and having a prior claim to the one (the 102nd N Y) which he was in shall keep him, he says he is satisfied and wanted often to return but for, what I had written home I would do if I ever caught him, he was afraid to make himself known. But now he says he means to be a good soldier and will do his duty (and he can do if he says he will) and wants to come back to Troy all right, with his name all free from the charge of deserting.

The facts of his running away were these. His friends in Albany, by name Cox, got him drunk and kept him so, and when he got over it he started for N. Y. to join us, and they followed him and got him on another spree and before he got over that we were gone to Washington then they made him believe from what I had written home that, I would do the worst I could if I ever caught him, and he reinlisted to get rid of them, and here he is, and all right at last, and I believe means to be a good soldier, he has been in a couple of battles too in that regiment. (How are you gun boat.)

Enclosed I send you a genuine secesh bill issued by J. Davis & Co. at Richmond C. S. A.

I dont know any war news, when the next fight will be, or any thing even where I will be myself tomorrow, but I am here now, never felt better in my life, and hope to feel so and perhaps more.

We were to day mustered for two months pay, and besides moveing Hdqrs 7 miles in the rain, have had to make out four pay rolls of the company, by the way it has rained every day we have marched for the past ten days - but that is much better than sunshine and the accompanying dust.

Letter of June 30th 1863

Remember me to all your family over to 4th Street, to your fair neighbors, and to the Original Robt. and all. Give my love to all the folks over home, and with the kindest wish for the health & welfare of yourself Em and family.

I remain as ever

Waters

To A J Rousseau Esq.