

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.

HdQrs 3d Div 2d Corps
July 4th 1864

Dear Uncle,

I have just been paid as Capt for the months of May & June & enclose check on Asst Treas. for \$150.00) One Hundred & Fifty Dollars, which please credit to me. I did not get pay as Lt. for Mos. of March & April, will have to wait until the Regt is paid off to get that. I received this from the Paymaster who came down to pay off the Staff officers of this Corps. Hereafter I can get my pay monthly if I wish as long as I am on detached service.

I have about \$150 now with me, so I am not very likely to want for anything. Neither do I intend to. I expect it will cost more to live at HdQrs than with the Regt but then there is more certainty of living and better fare, so I do not find any fault.

I wrote Abbie last evening. There is nothing new. I do not believe we are to have a "celebration" unless the Rebs see fit to open the sport.

I must close as I want this to go in this mornings mail.

I do not know just what to think about coming home this fall, as in some instances they have kept part of the officers of regiments when some of the Companies remain in service, and they seem to keep those who went home last winter, and in some instances those who did not. But I am coming home if I can, and if (as I expect to) I remain at HdQrs here I can do so I think. If any one can.

Hoping to live through this campaign and to come to you in safety and find you & Aunt Hannah and all in good health, I remain

Your Aff. Nephew

Waters

Head-Quarters, 3d Division 2d Corps,
Near Petersburg, V.a. July 15th 1864

Dear Cousin Libbie,

The last letter from home is yours of the 8th and I scarce expect another for some days to come, since the cutting of the road between Baltimore and Washington.

Day before yesterday our Corps moved up from the left to in front of the city where we were first. The entire corps are lying in reserve and working on the Fortifications, and destroying the old Rebel ones. The day before we left our old Camp General Birney gave a dinner party to quite a number of generals, and our staff gave one to the staff officers of those generals. We had a very nice time. Among the Genls who honored us were Hancock, Burnside, Williams, Gibbons, Potter, Barlow, Mott and our Brigade Commanders. Gen. Meade could not come but some of his staff did. Genl B had Senators Sprague, Wilkinson & Ashley visiting him at the time. In the midst of our dinner it was reported that Hills Corps (Reb) was moving to attack our left, but nary attack was there, the only effect was the early breaking up of our party.

Fred Myers has returned to the Regt, his wound is not quite healed yet, but he is too true blooded to stay away a minute longer than necessary. He is mustered in as a Lieutenant in Co. "K".

I received a paper by mail containing Dominee Barbers letter a day or two before I received your letter. Some young lady was interested enough to send it with the Paragraph concerning myself marked. It was not Postmarked Troy. I am very much obliged to Dominee B-- for his good opinion of me. I knew what he thought of me but never expected to see it in print.

I received a letter from Dominee B-- yesterday, he has had an operation performed upon his limb and will be unable to come north. Mrs. B-- is with him and he will send the spurs up by her on her return north. The sword he has sent by express.

Not a drop of rain yet, have we had and the dust is very thick night and day, but the weather has not been very hot except in the middle of the day.

Two of the staff have gone home on sick leave, but I do not think I could manage it to be sick enough, and if I can only get home for good this coming Winter I do not care to now.

I am sorry to hear Aunt Hannah is not well. She ought to go a visiting this summer up in the country. I hope she is better now and will keep so.

Remember me to all my friends young and old, and give my love to all and believe me as ever.

Your aff. cousin

Waters

HdQRS 3d Div 2d Corps
Near Petersburg Va.
July 19, 1864

Friend Maggie

The latest news from West Troy is just received. I am delighted after such a long silence to hear from you once more. I had about made up my mind that there was to be a wedding in the family, and now I think so more than ever, but since it is "Bob" instead of you, I do not see why you waited so long. Sorrow or sympathy?

The Regiment that Anna S---- husband used to be Major of, is in this Division and I have often heard the officers speak of him and regret his loss. I am sorry for Anna but I think there will be lots of Anna's before this war is ended and I do not think that U. S. Grant, will live a Lieut Genl in command of this army long enough to see it. If we had to fight every day until snow falls, I would be satisfied, if there was a certainty of the war being ended then.

I am glad it was not my ambrotype you lost, although since it was likely to have been found I do not know as I care particularly. Yes I do too! I am glad Jones was the victim. You are certain to get the best of me as regards Lansingburgh. I plead guilty to being gallant enough to grant a request of any fair young Lady, even a C-----e, in such a little thing as a picture. Why bless your heart I will have one taken tomorrow that not a living soul will have one like it, that not even Kill will know it to be me. And if you wish it, will send it with one of those others for your mother, as soon as it can be gotten down from Washington.

Our entire Corps is now in Reserve in front of Petersburg. Genl Grant is letting us rest a few days and then he will have some nice job for us. This Corps have lost more here in front of P----- than the rest of the army altogether. It is said that Genl Burnside has undermined the Reb works and I think when everything is ready, Genl Grant will start this corps and the mines off at about the same time.

I hope Robt has arrived ere this and Mrs. G --- and all of you relieved from anxiety on his account. I think I will have Kill send your Mother one of those pictures that he has, as waiting to send to Washington and being only one there might be some mistake.

Enclosed I send you one of the bars of the "shoulder straps" worn by myself through the fights of the wilderness and Spottsylvania and thru most of this campaign. I hope you wont accuse me of sending one of the same to "Lansingburgh". I shall have "Lansingburgh" "on the brain" for a week to come. I am ever thankful to you for your kind wishes that I may come out of this war with Life and a full complement of Limbs, and to your mother for her solicitation for my wardrobe. I assure you none shall be injured with my consent.

Remember me to Mr & Mrs Jones, your Father & Mother, Bob & Mill & Frankie, and a thousand kind wishes for yourself, I remain

Your friend

Waters

HdQrs 3d Div 2d A. Corps
Near Petersburg V.a.
July 31st 1864

Dear Kill & Em,

Upon such an occasion as the receipt of the good news (even if it is a girl) I should perhaps write each of you a letter, but as we have just returned from a raid across the James River and expect to go on one tomorrow, you must excuse me for making this a "double header". We left camp on Tuesday crossed the James River same night at Jones-neck, met & fought the Rebs for about three hours, captured some prisoners and four "Twenty-pound Parrott guns", skirmished with the "Johns" for three days, and marched back to this side on the "double quick" so as to be in time for yesterdays fight. This division relieved the whole line of the 18th Army Corps and one part of the fighting was to hold that line. The assault was a big fizzle and last night the 18th Corps relieved us, and we are back in camp just where we were about a week ago. The force in the raid to-morrow will consist of this Corps and about Ten Thousand Cavalry. I only had one of my sargeants horses killed, over the river, and hope to be as fortunate on this raid. We take five days rations so if you do not hear from me under a week do not be surprised.

The 93d has received about 350 drafted men that does not look like my coming home this winter, does it? But home I come if there is any such thing. One of our Staff Lt Thos H. Fisher, of Lansingburg was captured the first day we went over the river (on Wednesday) he went to the Picket line which was advancing and got out-side of our line, so he got took and is undoubtedly luxuriating in Richmond. His mother lives in Lansingburgh and as Kill knew Lt. Fisher he might go up and tell her, and relieve her of some anxiety. If I knew his address I would write her myself. He was not wounded as we learned from prisoners captured by ourselves almost immediately afterward. Another of our staff got inside the Reb lines but got away.

I like Genl Mott very much he is a much more pleasant man than Genl B-- but I like him too, and would like to have gone to the 10th Corps with him, but it would not have been fair for him to take all his staff from here and send the staff there all back to their regiments.

No Rain yet of any account. It is terrible marching and hot as fire in the trenches. I suppose I must congratulate you on the "new-comer". Please consider it done. I expect Abbie Sherman's nose is out of joint now.

I will write to Uncle Waters (It is a long time since I have) if there is the least possible chance on the raid, we are going around the left of our lines.

Give my love to Uncle Waters, Aunt Hannah, Abbie, Libbie, Delight and family, Carrie, Job, and all. Remember me over to Fourth St. Love to the baby and yourselves.

As ever

Waters

P. S. Where will "Minnie" sleep this winter since the other little female has arrived, you will have to fix them a crib to-gether.

Hdqrs 3d Div 2d Corps
Near Petersburg Va.
Augst 3d 1864

Friend Maggie,

After a week of hard marching, skirmishing, fighting, and hot days in the trenches, we are again in our camp "in reserve", and again I am the recipient of your "last favor". I am very sorry that I shall have to disappoint you in regard to the odd picture, but the reason is this. I went to Army Hdqrs the next day after writing to you, and had some "negatives" of my "phiz" taken. The operator said they were not good (I did not agree with him) and would not print them and the first cloudy day I am going there again, and having only been back to camp one day you must not think me negligent, for I shall certainly send you the facsimile "of your most obedient" ---

If I ever thought Robert was going to commit the crime of matrimony, I am now sure of it. I wish him joy. I would like right well to be at home to welcome Robt for although he's "your brother" I have nothing against him on that account. It is not his fault. Thanks Maggie for your compliment to the unworthy "wearer of the Straps". If I had a fond "Ma" to advise she would probably say, "beware of handsome young ladies and their honied words, or they will "surround" an innocent young man like you". I would not heed her advice a great deal though.

I do not know what the papers will publish in regard to this last affair on Petersburg but I believe it to be the most disastrous of the campaigns for us. I am glad for the credit of this division that the 2d Corps had nothing to do with the assault. Our division occupied the whole line of the 18th Corps and our part was to hold that line. The rest of the 2d Corps were over the James River where we left them two days before.

The 93d have received about three hundred drafted men so they are quite a regiment again, but that makes my chance for coming home this fall rather poor, but I am coming if I can. I am unanimous in that.

If I fail to mention the thanks I owe you for the "Waverly" please consider it done always, untill further notice. There was a piece in the one you sent me before the last, entitled "Etna". I wonder if you read and liked it. I did very much. Enclosed I send a "fragment" from the above respected paper. Now Maggie do not imagine that I wish to flatter, if you do, for an instant, please tear up the "verses" but they impressed me as being peculiarly appropriate to Miss Getty, surnamed Maggie Jane.

I hear direct from Lansingburgh as Lieut. Newcomb of the 93d has just returned, and being particularly sweet on Maggie he is posted in the latest news from the "burgh".

When we shall move and where to I do not know & care less, it is all in the three years.

Remember me to all - and in sunshine or cloud, believe me to be

Your friend

Waters

To Maggie

HeadQuarters 3d Div 2d Corps
Near Petersburg, V.a.
August 4th 1864

Dear Uncle,

We are still in camp in reserve, the contemplated raid of which we were to take part in, that has all fallen through for the present. I am glad to hear of the safe termination of affairs over to Kills. Girls seem still to be fashionable in the family. I suppose the new comer is the center of attraction for the present and will be untill the next grandchild makes its appearance. I regret to hear of the death of Mr. Kerr, but I suppose he is better off now, than in the misery he must have lived in for the past year and over. He was always a good friend of mine and of yours also, as such his loss is to be regretted, but for himself he had not much to live for, no children and only himself and Mrs. Kerr. And it must be a satisfaction to his friends while they feel his loss to know that he is released from a world of trouble. You must have had quite a family lately taking the deputations from Wabash and Union Village too, it must seem like old times.

I am glad Ephriams prospects are so good for this year. I owe him a letter ever since the opening of the campaign and am ashamed to think I have neglected answering it. What does Abbie Sherman say to the little cousin? I suppose Jamie Sherman has finished going to school now. I am very much obliged to her for her good wishes for me, and thoughts. I often think of all the young ladies of my acquaintance but not much of any one in particular.

I am more than glad that all the soldiers who go north, knowing me, give a good account of me. I do not know who there is could do otherwise, unless an enemy, and if I have one I dont know it, for I think more of my good name than I do of my life and when one is at risk in this service, the other is too.

The 93d are daily receiving drafted men. That looks as if all the officers would be kept, the coming fall. Lieut Newcomb is back, he is retained on the Staff of the 2d brigade. I do not know when we shall move, there are plenty of rumors afloat of this Corps going to Washington, and of Gen Hancock comdg the army and this Division going to Gen Birneys command the 10th Corps. I do not believe any of them.

Give my love to all the family and remember me to all friends and although I have not the slightest fear that I shall be taken off in this war yet rest assured that if I am, you or any of you will cease to be remembered by

Your Affectionate Nephew

Waters

HdQrs 3d Div 2d Corps
Near Petersburg V.a.
August 8th 64

Dear Cousin Libbie,

Yours of the 31st ult was received, in due time. We are still in camp, day before yesterday we were ordered out as there was an attack expected but we returned to camp in less than an hour. It only took fifteen minutes to get the Corps out and on the march, pretty quick that. There is a prospect that the Army of the Potomac will again change commanders. Meade has been in long enough he is tired out! I think if a change is made that Gen Hancock is the next victim. I was over to the 10th Corps yesterday. Saw Genl B-- found him in good humor spent a pleasant day and returned. That department has many more privileges than this, one of Genl Bs staff has gone home on 30 days leave of absence, and I suppose the others will take their turn.

The paper I received did not come from either Troy or "West Troy". Keep guessing you must come right at last.

Sime Newcomb is back again and is still on Staff duty with the 2d brigade. He seems to have entirely recovered of his wound, he wishes to be remembered to all.

Em should make a bargain with Kill that she shall name all the girls and he the boys. She would have the best of it certain.

I am well and full of business, I have to keep all the sutlers of the Div. under my thumb, and together with deserters, stragglers, substitutes, convalescents & drafted men, I have enough, and not too much to do, am independant as you please.

Enclosed I send a circular from War Dept. on the subject of retaining officers. So you see my time is almost up only two years and eight months but I dont see it. There will be plenty of orders yet.

Love to all, and regards to all friends.

Ever your aff. cousin

Waters

HdQrs 3d Div 2d C.
City Point, V.a.
Aug. 14, 64

Dear Cousin Abbie,

Your last is recd. We are at City Point about to ship for some place or other we do not know where.

Am well myself, give my love to all.

In haste,

Your aff. cousin

Waters

Near Petersburg, V.a.
HdQrs 3d Div 2d Corps
Office Provost Marshall
Aug 19, 1864

10 O. C. P. M.

Dear Uncle,

On the day I wrote to Abbie we all shipped at City Point, and went down the river about 10 O. C. at night we turned about and ran up the river past City-Point to Deep-Bottom when we disembarked at the same place, we crossed the river about three weeks ago. We had three days pretty hard fighting, last night our division returned to Peterburg and we now hold the old line of the 5th Corps, which has gone to the left, and holds the Weldon R. R. We are skirmishing with the Rebs now and our 2d brigade keeps sending me in prisoners. I have the Lieut and one wounded Reb in my tent now. I am giving the Lieuts something to eat, and the private is waiting for a surgeon to dress his wounds. It has rained incessantly for the past three days and the roads are getting very muddy, quite a change from the dust. Everything looks favorable for our taking Petersburg and perhaps Richmond. I hope soon,

Our Div lost about three hundred men over the river, one brigade commander the one that Sime Newcomb is on the staff. The 93d as usual suffered pretty severely. Capt Kincaid will probably lose his leg.

We expect quite a fight on the left tomorrow the 9th Corps is moving now through the rain mud and dark.

I am very well myself, this is the first chance I have had to write since I wrote the note to Abbie. We do not expect to be in the fight tomorrow unless the Rebs attack us here, then we will go for them sure. Hoping you are all in good health, I remain with love to Aunt Hannah and all.

Your Aff, nephew

Waters

HdQRS. 3d Div 2d Corps
Near Petersburg Va.
Aug. 21, 1864

Friend Maggie,

Amid the storms of the battle I steal a few moments to answer your last favor which was itself received while we were over the James River this last time at a moment when murderous missiles were circulating more freely than was either healthy or amusing. Was I not surely among the fortunate ones when amid the clouds such light appears to cheer, and for a short time at least make one forget that he is in this horrible place, and he not know how long he is to remain a fixture whether he will or no. If the draft takes place next month I think my regiment will be filled up with conscripts.

Certainly you may ask me anything. Robt. did not long ago write me in a half-serious nonsensical way that he was somewhat inclined to settle down, with the consent of that little "god" who sports the bow and arrows, but I did not put much faith in the professions of that reliable young man until Dame Rumor called the circumstance to mind, therefore I with a sigh for Robt thought "it must be so". The reason of my friend Lt. Newcomb getting a furlough was that he was so fortunate as to get only slightly wounded at "North Anna River". No such encouragement for a patriot like myself. -- Sime related his experience at home in glowing words, his crutch made him a hero everywhere especially with the gentle Maggie, the stories he tells almost made me feel "lonesome" were it not that I am fortified for defending myself against such feelings by the kind letters I receive from home and elsewhere and the hope that we "may one day meet again" at home and when our land shall be no more accursed by a civil war. You are a little bit inclined to be sarcastic on the political effusion of Waters, but I am glad you are not too severe, because I know him to be a young man and he might be so discouraged as to prevent him from perpetrating anything of the kind again. To be truly gallant I cannot do less than sympathize with you in your "loneliness" and but little would be required to make me feel it in more than sympathy. I am ever indebted to you for not destroying my verses and replying in so happy a manner. I can not but feel even more complimented than you did, because I consider who they came from and value them more for that than themselves.

I hope you will have a good time up to Salem. Libbie Whipple is up there now I believe visiting Jennie Oakley. Perhaps you will meet her, she is afflicted with side saddle on the brain as well as yourself. Perhaps you may meet Miss Jennie Sherman of Union Village. If you do, tell me what you think of her. Uncle W----- is very partial towards Miss Jennie, on my account. I have heard direct from "Lansingburgh", please don't abuse this confidence for although I know Miss M----- to be the biggest little coquette that ever wore a ring on her first finger "left hand" yet I can never forget the warm reception and many kindnesses I received at her house. There is a prospect of a big fight today we do not expect to be engaged. Deserters are coming in large numbers and report a bad state of affairs "over in Dixie". I too hope this war will soon be ended and not only myself but all our brave soldiers be restored to home and friends they love. With kind regards I am, hoping to hear from you soon again.

As ever

Waters

H ^d ^r ^d ^d
Q 3 Div. 2 Corps
Near Petersburg, Va.

^t
Aug 24, 1864

Dear Cousin Libbie

Your happily written favor from the country was as happily received. You seem to be enjoying yourself to the utmost extent. Look out for the man of Law. Of course I should like to be there, if there is so many pretty young ladies there (and the queen of them, Miss G. expected soon) as you say. Please remember me to all the young ladies over to the village; no one in particular, bless their dear hearts. I love all the petticoated dears alike, so no one can grumble.

Our division is still in the same place as when I wrote to Uncle W-----. The rest of our corps are down on the Weldon R. R., so we are in a measure independent; and aside from the water in the trenches the Division are having easy times enough. The Rebs will have to attack us to get that R. R. back, and if they do they will get hurt, some of them. Deserters are coming in in large numbers. I am receiving from 6 to 12 every night, and every one of them agree in saying that if the next draft takes place, and Lincoln is elected again, the south will have to give it up, and that they are only holding on now in hopes of the election of a Copperhead.

As to my coming home I am unable to say. There are orders on the subject every other week; the last is, that no officers are to be allowed to go home (unless in a box) even if the most of their men go, but that the skeleton regiments will be filled up by drafted men the coming fall. But I am unanimous in waiting to come home this fall (for the sake of Mrs. B. if nothing else), but I shall think a long while ere I do anything dishonorable for the sake of two years service, even with ninety-nine chances out of a hundred of it costing the life of a patriot of my size.

Give my love to Lyd & family, Carrie, Job & Abbie "the little". Tell Carrie anything so she wont say anything about the letter I owe her for the last two or three months. Remember me to Mrs. and Jennie Sherman. Don't visit yourself sick, fall into the lake and get drowned, or anything to that kind. You might better be a Provost Marshall in the A. of P., there is less danger.

Finally, remember me to everybody, and accept my kind wishes that you may have a pleasant visit, and return home renewed in health; and, keep so.

Your Aff. Cousin,

WATERS

P. S.

I forgot to say that I enclose a secesh star from the Rebellious flag of the 57th Va. Infty. captured by this division on the 12th of May, 64. Please keep it for me.

W -----
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Under date of October 17, 1864, Hdqurs. Army of the Potomac issued a statement that Private Jack Robinson, Company I, 19th Massachusetts Volunteers, captured the flag of the 57th Virginia Regiment at Gettysburg, July 3, 1863, during the assault on the 2nd Corps, United States Army.

The 57th Virginia Regiment of Infantry was in Armistead's Brigade, Pickett's Division, 1st Army Corps, commanded by Lt. General James Longstreet.

The foregoing data is from a memo. made by B. H. Baylor, Assistant in the Adjutant General's Office, Richmond Va.

-X-X-X-X-X-

From Capt. Braman's statement the flag was captured during the campaign against Richmond, in the Wilderness, which occurred during the early days of May, 1864. The fighting lasted two weeks.

Capture made by 3rd Div. 2nd Corps.

During this engagement Genl. Longstreet was badly injured.

HdQrs 3d Div 2d Corps
Near Petersburg V.a.
Augt. 28, 1864

Dear Kill,

With sincere pleasure I acknowledge the receipt of your favor of the 16th Inst. Am rejoiced to learn of the good health of Em and the youthfull image of the Rousseau family. Our Division have not moved since I last wrote except that part of two brigades went down to the R. R. to help the rest of our Corps, which got badly handled, about 7000 against 20,000 but the Johns did not get off very easily, about three such victories would do the job for them sure. Our two brigades did not get into the fight, Genl Meade stopped them on the road, and Genl Hancock said at one table today noon that if he had our troops down there as promised, he would have achieved a splendid victory. Deserters keep coming in. I have an average of five every night. They seem sick enough of the rebellion, and all agree that it can not last longer than the coming winter, so send along the "drafted men" and "subs". To-day five members of our Staff go home by reason of the expiration of original term of their regiments. If nothing happens to my Uncle Mott, and I dont show my before in some way I think there is hopes for myself the coming winter. I have got Vet detailed on this staff in command of the Div "Horned brigade", and expect to get Sime Newcomb detailed to-morrow as Actg. Commissary of musters for the Div, and if he can get the appointment confirmed by the War Department, it will just be a large thing for Sime. Vet has turned out to be a splendid officer, much exceding my expectations of him. I am glad I am where I can do a little for my friends, especially when I know that they deserve it. My position enables me to see just who does their duty in this division and who does not. No particular signs of a movement but five minutes work would start a big row along the lines. Grant is good to "stick and hang". I am just old "health and prosperity" myself. Never lived better. Feel first rate. If you want to come down can get you a pass if any one can, just as soon as it is allowed, but you would have to be a San Com or a Chris Com to come just now. Love to all, write soon and dont lay the blame on the innocent baby if you do not. As ever

Waters

HdQrs 3d Div 2d Corps
Near Petersburg V.a.
Sept 6, 1864

Dear Cousin Libbie,

Your pleasant favor from the Village of Aug 31st was last evening received by me. Verily am I glad to hear that you are still enjoying yourself, but how could you be so cruel as to let those nice young ladies over to Salem think I was engaged when you know I am in the market, and now perhaps you have spoiled a chance for me that may never occur again. At least it is about time I was engaged to some one else than my fair friend over the river. Please dont forget when you go to "the fair" to remove that erroneous impression from the minds of Salem's fair daughters. Now that is all nonsense Lib and if I had anything better to write I would not think of writing such stuff. But really there is nothing of interest transpiring. Upon the receipt of the news from Atlanta Genl Grant ordered every Battery from the James River to the Weldon R. R. to open fire and they made quite a noise even to our accostomed ears. It was just at midnight. The Deserters who have come in this morning say that they were told last night that Atlanta was retaken from the Yanks.

We are having a RailRoad built from James River to our extreme left, it runs right by our HdQrs and we expect to have the cars running to-morrow.

Sime Newcomb is on this staff with me which suits me much. I expect Col Crocker will be mustered out for being absent sick over 60 days and Col Butler is now being courtmartialed and I think and trust will be dismissed from the service. There will be a chance for promotion for some one. I have naught to say in reply to Jennie Sherman, although gallantry demands that I should at least thank her for the kind wishes for my "speedy return to home and friends", after I bleed for my country about three years longer.

Love to Carrie Job Abbie Jr, Lyd, Joe, Uncle Bob and Aunt Hattie, and all, everybody, yourself included.

Waters

HdQrs 3d Div 2d Corps
Near Petersburg, V.a.
Sept 6, 1864

Dear Cousin Abbie,

We have but little news aside from my being well to enable me to answer your kind favor of the 23d ult. There is nothing doing except the daily routine of business and the receipt of Deserters. We are having a RailRoad built from City-Point to the extreme left of our lines which will greatly facilitate the transportation of supplies especially should the roads become bad. This is undoubtedly our position for some time to come. The Rebels seem to have given up all hopes of regaining the Weldon R. R. and seem to be devoting all their energies to the defence of the Danville R. R. and their works about Petersburg.

There is little or no Political sentiment manifested in the Army, but I believe that McClellan will get the Majority here. I am more than half inclined that way myself. One evidence of the working of Politics is the reappointment by the President of Thos F. Meagher as Brigd Genl with all his back pay and rank, and as he is not assigned to any command I believe he is only appointed in consideration of his electioneering abilities among the Irish.

We manage to live first rate, have lots of apples, peaches, grapes, melons, green corn, and all of those luxuries daily, a striking example of how the soldiers suffer, but perhaps we will have to live for weeks on hard tack to pay for our indulgences now.

Sime Newcomb is on this Staff now and Lt. Alrood of the 93d N. Y. V. It will soon be all 93d as it was 6th N. J. before if we keep on. I have Ems & Libbies last favors and will answer soon.

Love to Uncle Waters, Aunt Hannah, Lib, Em, Kill, the baby, to Mary A and all the family. Kind remembrances to all friends and believe me to be, your aff. cousin

Waters

Hdqrs 3rd Div. 2nd A. Corps.
Near Petersburg, Va.
Sept. 9th, 1864

Dear Uncle;

Yours of the 4th was received by me last evening. I am more gratified than ever you can be to have officers who go home give a good report of my character, for equal to the satisfaction of having my friends know of my conduct here, is the self gratification of knowing myself that I have ever done my duty.

Maj. Hancock is a brother of Gen. H_____, commanding the 2nd Corps. He is the Adj. Genl. of this Div. and a very capable man in his Department. He went home on a "ten days leave", to attend a "law suit" involving over \$100,000. He has always been a good friend of mine, in fact I do not know where to look for an enemy in the service. My Department is a difficult one to conduct without having more or less trouble, but I devote all my attention to the proper conducting of it and if anything unpleasent devolves upon me, it is done as a matter of duty and as such can cause no complaint. We had a man shot for "Desertion". He was executed right in front of our Hdqrs. He belonged to Battery "K" 4th U. S. Arty. The Prov. Marsh. of the 1st Div. had to superintend the whole affair, not a very desirable job. I have a man in my "Bull Ring" that belongs to this Div., and I expect he will be sentenced to be shot, if so, I will have to do the "dirty work".

There is a rumor of an order allowing officers to leave the service upon the expiration of the original three years. It is but just that such should be the case, but aside from the justice, I think the service is harmed more than benefitted by retaining unwilling officers. If such is the fact, I shall come home (providing I dont disgrace myself in the meantime) as soon after the 15th of January next as it is possible for me to do so.

I regret to learn of the poor state of health of Aunt Hannah. I hope she is better and continues in good health for many years after this rebellion is crushed. I am well as possible for man to be. We live first rate now in compensation for the hard times we have had. I am pleasently situated among friends and independant of them all. I expect Lieut. Col. Butler will be dismissed from the service in a day or two. You know the Regt. have been down on him always, and have often tried to get him to resign without success. For a wonder I had nothing to do with this. His dismissal does not reflect at all on the good name of the Regt. and although I am glad he is out of it, yet I feel sorry that it should be in such a way. He would always do anything for me. Maj. McCohnie is just the man to command the regiment and as a good officer is acknowledged throughout the Division. And I know personally that in a battle he is not to be beaten. Therefore, it is not strange that the officers and men want him in place of Col. B_____.

I am glad you met Maj. Hancock and entertained him so well. As to my speaking of you and my regard for you, how could it be otherwise? One must have some affection and gratitude for him who brought one up, and made him what he is.

I trust never through life to become so degraded as to forget the debt of gratitude I owe you.

Give my love to all the family and kind remembrances to all the Park Church and my other friends, and believe me to be

Your Aff. Nephew,

Waters.

Hdqrs. 3d Div 2d Corps
Sept. 11th 1864

Friend Maggie,

To in part atone for your long delay, I answer immediately your last favor, just recd. But the only reason I can offer is that we are to move our Hdqrs tomorrow, and I might not get a chance to write for a day or two, so please let that be my excuse for not waiting for your ink to dry. Now don't think I mean to charge you with neglect for I were rude indeed not to think your excuse a good one. Please accept my congratulations for the successful termination of your conflict with, and hopes that the day may be distant when that great enemy of our race "sickness" shall return to pay his respects. This weeks "waverley" also arrived to-night. It is needless for me to repeat my "oft told thanks", and as useless to say I have read the touching story of the "School-Marm" for you know of course that would be the first I would look for. I can but shed "tears of sorrow" for her sad fate, but for the life of me can I not in any way connect either in the present or future your fate and that which costs me so many tears (if they are salt ones). I still like the "Waverley" and would do so more if the never ending theme of "Love" could at least on one page, give place to something more sensible.

Who can it be so much better posted in regard to my affairs than myself, who so kindly volunteers the information that "I had re-enlisted", deep indeed must be the interest they take in my affairs. I suppose I should feel more grateful therefor than I do just at this time. I tell you once for all I never did, only so far as my acceptance of my Commission as Capt may be construed into willingness to serve for three years from that date. It is not so construed by me and I tell you another time "for all" I am coming home this Winter for good. There have been officers retained after the expiration of their "original terms" but their going home last winter has nothing to do with it, and only this, the government needs them, and says they "shall stay if needed". Said action of the government has caused a great deal of dissatisfaction, among the officers, and I understand that the case has been left to Genl Grant to decide and he says that promotion is incidental to the service and that the officer receiving such promotion makes no new bargain with government. Please excuse the length at which I have attempted to explain this subject. Please accept our thanks for the kind offer of what we would do if us could be informed etc. I really do not think of anything, but believe me sincere when I say I full appreciate your kind wishes and intentions. And what could I ask you to do more, am I not the gainer by far by this correspondence, which last winter I did not dare even dream of so far was it from my hopes of being so favored. And I fully appreciate your kindness in this, and the spirit which prompted you to make the last kind offer. I wonder if you smile (out loud) at the serious view I take of so slight a matter. Please dont!

How in the world did you descend from your throne of dignity so much as to write my name at the finale of your last, without putting Capt before it. You really must have made a mistake, as it is the first time I will overlook it, as you request me to excuse all errors. I would rather believe it not a mistake but a harbinger of the day when you would cease to remind me of my military rank at the beginning of every epistle.

Allow me to rejoice with you over the "glorious news" of Robts expected arrival and to hope that you will find him unchanged, but the loveing brother he ever was.

Now for Politics. As for McClellan I don't think I shall let my love for the soldier do injury to my principles as a man. It is a difficult subject to discuss and I am postponeing my decision as long as possible. It is really to bad you could not go up to Salem, Libbie writes me glowing accounts of her visit and full histories (I mean Biographies) of all the young ladies and lots of "nice young men". She enjoyed her stay there very much, and I feel sure you have lost a pleasant trip and one that would do you good. How you would have romped around I can imagine, but about a week ago I imagined you were there enjoying yourself freely and unrestrained by the conventionalities of city life in W. T. but no! and now I have to picture to myself the weary hours of pain instead.

Have you almost (or quite) begun to think me recreant in regard to that picture. When I spoke of sending it I did intend to have one taken reading a newspaper so no one could see the face, but after sober thought, came to the conclusion that said style was too stale a joke, so the other day I was down to City-Point, and to sustain my name for veracity, more than hoping to get a picture to please you or suit myself, I had the enclosed one take, and send it relying on your good nature and amiability not to too severely critisize said picture, or put the original in blushes by showing it to everyone. It certainly possesses the merit of not being at all similar to any previous likeness of my humble self, and I doubt as I said before if my most intimate friends would recognize it.

Now Maggie go to Salem and attend the "county fair" in preferance to getting sick but dont let either prevent you from answering soon, even this "short" note comeing as it does from an "undutiful Nephew" perhaps, but one who wishes to be kindly remembered to all, who does not forget one, even poor Frankie whom if the kindest wishes could restore to health would be ere this recovered, and hopes occasionally to share a place in your thoughts. Ever -

Your friend

Waters.

HdQrs 3d Div 2d A. C.
Sept 21st 1864

Dear Cousins Abbie & Libbie,

Both your letters were received the same day so you must pardon me if I answer both at once. Major Hancock has returned to the army. He is very well pleased with Troy and thinks he has done well in securing part of Sullivans band. Some of the band have arrived. Everything is very quiet here. This morning Genl Grant opened all the guns on the Rebs in honor of the Victory over in the valley. Ever since one of our brigades made a night attack on the Reb pickets and gobbled about a hundred of them there has been continual picket firing and an occasional bullet comes over to our head quarters. Maj William in the Tent opposite mine had one come through his tent when he was lying on the bed, if he had been sitting or standing up he would have got 20 days or more.

There is talk of there being three companies of the 93d mustered out, Cos B, G & H if so there is yet a chance for me to come home. Col Crocker has resigned and the officers are endeavoring to have Major McC appointed as his successor. Lt. Col Butler got the best of the officers on his court martial, and is restored to duty.

I am well and hoping to be able to come home this winter. Love to Uncle, Aunt, Em, Kill & all, yourselves included.

Ever your aff. cousin

Waters

P. S. Enclosed I send Lib three photographs.

W

11 O. C. P. M.

Head-Quarters 3d Division 2d Corps
Sept 28th 1864

Dear Uncle,

Your last letter was received some days since. Ere it came I had already changed my mind as to McC. - or rather I had not yet made up my mind and his letter of acceptance helped me to do so. I am still McC- but I can never vote for him or the principles he represents. You must remember that when I wrote you last we had not yet seen the Chicago Platform and only the news of his nomination, and of course like a great many in the Army, my regard for the man as an officer made me predisposed in his favor, and that I think will be the great secret of the vote McC is certain to get in the army. It will be with many their old Commander, not the Politician representing "Peace on any terms". You should know better than to think I could ever do any thing to help the traitors in arms, or at the north.

There is an order from the War Department now that will allow me to come home upon the expiration of my three years, but I expect to see more orders before that time comes around. I have been paid two months pay and enclose check for \$200.00 which amount please place to my credit. The 93d Pay-master is also here and has partly paid the regiment to-day, but as we move at 4 O. C. in the morning, he will not be able to finish paying them untill this move is over. I have pay due yet for the months of March & April, and I will get it in a check and forward to you. The reason I have not gotten it from the Paymaster who always pays our staff, is that I was promoted during those months and had pay due for commanding company and I thought it best to get it on the Rolls of the company.

I have not the slightest idea of where we are going to in the morning, but I feel there is some move on foot of more importance than any of this army while in front of Petersburg. Dont feel worried for me, I shall be all right I feel assured. I am in receipt of Letters from Lib & Kill.

Give my love to Aunt Hannah and all and believe me to be.

Ever your aff. Nephew

Waters

Hdgrs. 3d Div 2d A. C.
Oct. 3d 1864

Friend Maggie,

Yesterday while the Div was engaged with the enemy and shot & shell flying around Hdgrs. in an extremely unpleasant manner, your letter arrived. What a contrast to be surrounded by scenes of blood, and ones thoughts far away to our northern friends and those we prize as our dearest friends. I feel honored by the confidence you have in me, in entrusting the fact of Robert's engagement, and hoped for marriage. I should certainly like to see her "carte de visite" and will return it with many thanks. No one shall ever be the wiser for my knowledge, even were I to forget my regards for Bob, your own request would be sufficient to seal my lips forever. I have written a hasty note to Lib today and asked her about the young & good looking chap from - Salem. I imagine her astonishment at the question coming from me. How she will rack her brain to think how I could possibly be informed on such a subject. I am sure I am not very particular - whether you call me Capt. or W -- anything from you would suit me, but here surrounded by everything military, Capt sounds so official. I dont like it in a friendly letter that is all. I rely on your good sense to do what you think best, that will suit me. Night before last our Div was detached from the 2d Corps and have since been serving with the 9th Corps. We were fighting all day yesterday, and drove the enemy out of one line of works and a mile beyond but as we were the extreme left of this army, Genl Warren thought it not safe for us to stay out there all night and so we retired to the line we captured in the morning. As the time approaches when I may come home I feel more & more confident that I shall be able to, under existing orders, I shall certainly.

Please excuse this hastily written letter, but I am sure if you could see our accomodations you would not say a word in reproach, and since you are so apt to follow (as you say but I don't & won't believe) a bad example, I thought I would write now, for I do not know when I shall get a chance to write in some days to come. I give you leave to ask me any questions you choose now or when you see me as see me will you. Give my regards to Sarah and family, and assure your mother that she has my sympathy and best wishes for her recovery.

Kind regards -

hastily

Waters

HdQrs 3d Div 2d A. C.
Oct 3d 1864

Dear Cousin Libbie,

Here we are way down on the left of the Army beyond the Welden R. R. We came down night before last, and yesterday were engaged with the enemy all day drove them out of their first line of works and about a mile beyond. Genl Warren with whom we are serving thought it not safe for us to stay out there all night so we came back last night to the line we captured yesterday morning which line we now hold. Our Div lost some one or two hundred men in killed and wounded. We are stationary to-day but how long we shall stay so or how soon we shall return to our own Corps I can not say.

Yesterday was the first fight I ever was in but that I had some sort of a narrow escape but not a bullet came near me yesterday, one struck the Generals horse. I think the Rebs have got tired trying to hit me and have given it up. I hope so.

Lib did you meet a young chap by the name of Eugene C--r, up in Salem? and what do you think of him? is he good looking and all that?

Give my love to all the family. As the orders stand now I am coming home this winter so I think it would be safe to remember me to all the Salem fair ones, love to all & yourself.

In haste,

Waters

Head-Quarters, 4th Division, 2d Corps
Oct 10th 1864

Dear Cousin Abbie,

Your last letter is received, also one from Libbie but as I wrote her a few days since, I will answer yours first. I had not yet heard of the safe arrival of the \$200 check so that information was very acceptable. I have since sent some money by express, which I hope will arrive as safely. There are a great many officers going out of service just now on the recent order to that effect. Capt Smith of the 93d went a few days since and others will be going during the early part of next month. I think now I shall come too if the order is not changed in the meantime. I would come even were I to come out again in a one year organization, in preference to staying here three years under Col Butler and most of the officers feel the same way. Of course a great many leave because they are tired of the service, many too who can not make so good a living out of the Army as they have in, but I fancy that I can, and feel that by serving the three years I have done my share toward putting down the Rebellion. Yet once in a while comes the desire to see it over but if I must I prefer to do it under a man I can respect and not the Colonel that is to be. Genl Mott started for home yesterday on a ten day leave, so I think we shall be pretty quiet in the meantime as other genl officers have gone too, for the same length of time.

I wish Kill would send me the rest of those papers in regard to Quarter-Master stores if he can find them, the one I most want is in relation to 75 axes. If I am to leave the service I shall want them, the other paper is in relation to grain & forage, and I would like to fix my account with the Q. M. Dept if possible. I am sure I sent the vouchers when I rendered the account and the papers here got lost in the Dept and the one Kill sent me is one they claim I never sent, but the other two are lacking.

We are having very cold disagreeable wintry weather. I think of taking a trip up to Dutch Gap tomorrow, the spires of Richmond can be seen from the lookout at that place. It is where Butler is digging the canal to pass the obstructions in the James River.

I am well as possible, am sorry to hear that Aunt Hannah was sick when she was enjoying herself on her visit, or any other time. I hope you are all well now. Love to all and kind regards to friends.

Your Aff. Cousin

Waters

P. S. Ask Uncle Waters to send me immediately the proper state & county nominations, as I want to send my voting papers to him, and to see that I am duly registered in the Second Ward. I have got the affidavitt etc. All I want is the state and county tickets. I want to vote for Griswold - I will rely on Uncle W for the rest.

Waters

HdQrs 3d Div 2d A. C.
Near Petersburg, V.a.
Oct 18, 1864

Dear Uncle,

I last evening received your letter of the 13th Inst. I do not remember receiving any acknowledgment from Kill of the receipt of the \$200.00 check but I did hear of its safe arrival through Abbie. I am glad to hear you are well and through Libbie that Aunt Hannah has recovered from her turn consequent on your visit to Washington County. As to my coming home this winter, I am coming even if I were to come into the Army again, but if I do come home I intend to give up the Army, and stay out of it, providing I can get into some business that I can stick to for a living, as I don't think much of a man that is dissatisfied and changing every year. If I do come into the Army again it will be to adopt the profession of arms for good. But if I do come that I have been in the service long enough to show my patriotism and entitle me to settle down. All the rumors that the girls hear about my being engaged to be married are false and there is nothing of the kind to influence me to come home. Only that I feel that I have done my duty by my country, and think that the rebellion will be soon crushed. I will enclose the express receipt for the \$390.00 so that if it should fail to arrive you can get it of the express company. I have also another hundred Dollars which a man of my old company wishes you to keep for him. I will send it by Chaplain Barber who starts for home in the morning on a short leave of absence. The boys name is Wm Holden he has no friends in this country and I will write you more fully in a note by the Dominee.

There is imminent prospect of a move, the 6th & 19th Army Corps are coming and I think that one of the largest battles of the war will be fought within the next ten days. Another officer of the 93d went home this morning he is going to call on Kill, his name is Lt Alrood. Dominee Barber will call at the house by my request, as he is a warm friend of mine.

Give my Love to all Aunt Hannah, Abbie, Libbie, Em & Kill and the baby to all the Union Villiage folks, and my kind remembrances to all friends, and believe me your affectionate Nephew.

Waters W. Braman

P. S. I forgot to thank you for your offer to do what you can to find some opening for me, but you should know that I am thankfull for your past kindness and that I appreciate your kind offer, but we can talk of all those things when I come home, and I shall decide upon nothing untill I do come, and whatever that decision is I intend to abide by it.

As ever,

Waters

HdQrs 3d Div 2d A. C.
Oct 19, 1864

Dear Uncle,

Enclosed I send you by favor of Chaplain Barber \$100.00. It belongs to Wm Holden of Co. C. 93d N. Y. Vols. He desires you to keep it for him and in case anything happens to him to be sent to -

Patrick Holden
Ballingarry
County of Tipperary
Ireland

All well - love to all

Waters

P. S. I neglected sending express receipt in my letter of yesterday and send it today.

Waters

Hd. Qrs. 3rd Div. 2nd A. C.
Near Petersburg, Va.
Oct. 21, 1864

Dear Cousin Em;

I have been owing you a letter for some time, in fact I have been rather dilatory in my correspondence of late and mean to do better until I come home, for I want to sustain my character for what I think I have earned since I came into the service, that is, a pretty good correspondent.

There is not so much prospect of a move now as there was, but we are liable to have a big fight any day. The Army is fast filling up with recruits. This Div. is more than double what it was two months ago. Our Hd. Qrs. is at the Jones House. We have chimneys built and they are very comfortable these cold nights.

There was two very pretty young ladies here but one of them died of "Typhoid Fever" on Saturday night last. The family were very wealthy before the war but are badly enough off now; not a servant left there and nothing to eat but army rations furnished by our commissary. They are good Union-folks and I feel sorry for them. Our staff had to sit up with the body two nights and furnished the Coffin by subscription. I had to help the only woman that could be got to put the body into the coffin. You can imagine how badly the mother and sister felt over their loss. I dont know what they would have done, but for us.

The father of the girl that died is in prison north. He was conscripted the very day our forces came here and taken prisoner in about two hours.

Gen'l. Mott returned night before last. He called in Philadelphia to see Maj. Gen'l. Birney but the Physicians would not permit him to do so, and Gen'l. Birney died that night. Capt. Winebrenner of my guard has gone home to attend the funeral. Gen'l. Birney was his uncle. It is just as well that I did not go with Gen'l. B---- for I might have to go to my regiment now. I am very sorry that he is dead both for his friendship to myself and the loss to our armies and the country. Gen'l. B--- was the Vice President of our "Third Corps Union". I dont know as I ever wrote that I had joined that association, but I did sometime ago. It is a society consisting of the officers of good character, in the old 3rd Corps. Its object is to send the bodies of its members who are killed or die in the service, to their homes. And there is also a kind of Free Masonry among its members who generally pull together and can only be expelled from the society for disgraceful conduct in the field. I thought it was a good society and as I have seen some of its good effects, I joined it. Gen'l. Mott is the Treasurer of the society, but I guess he will be Vice President now.

We have lots of horse races now that we are lying quiet. As the orders still stand I can come home. I hope they will stay so until winter. There is no doubt but the Army will give a large majority for "Lincoln". I arrested a patriot some days

Oct. 21, 1864 Continued

ago for expressing copperhead sentiments and violating the orders of the War Department. He was an agent from Connecticut, and that order prohibited him from making speeches or entering into any discussion of a political nature, and yet he tried to influence soldiers to vote for McC----- by running down the present administration and the war, and on the complaint of the men I arrested him, and sent him to Gen'l. Patrick who referred his case to Gen'l. Grant. I dont know what will be done with him, but I know the copperhead papers will make a big noise about his arrest.

I am well as usual. Give my love to all ones at home. Remember me kindly to the young ladies next door, and with many kind wishes for yourself, Kill and the little one, I remain as ever

Your Aff. Cousin,

Waters

Hdqrs 3d Div 2d A. C.
Near Petersburg Va.
Oct. 24, 1864

Friend Maggie

Were I as reticent as you this last time, I would not write for a week to come, but our Division is now moving and I expect orders to move Hdqrs. every moment and If I don't write now I don't know when I might have another chance, which might be so far distant that I would be deserving even a longer period betwixt my letter and your answer than this last, and I mean to give you a fair chance to retrieve your almost lost reputation for a prompt and good correspondent. I have not the most faint idea of where we are going to, but think we are to try the left again. There will undoubtedly be one of the most severe fights of the campaign. I am not particularly anxious to see many more fights before I come home, but if I can do anything towards closing the war, so far as personal feeling goes, I am ready for anything. Do you begin to think I am coming home this winter or do you still hear those rumours of my re-enlisting? I am more than gratified by your confidence in me by sending Miss Annie Bs Phizog--. I like her looks very much, and hope I shall be honored with an invite on the eventful day when Robt I-swears to love cherish etc. and she swears back at him. Since I last * wrote you we have had our Hdqrs at the Jones House where there are in family an old man, his daughter-in-law and her daughter, aged 19 very pretty etc. There was another young lady a sister of this one, but she died of Typhoid Fever and was buried a week ago to-day. The family were very wealthy three months ago but are now dependant on our army for food to sustain life. You can scarce imagine the trouble and suffering that the two ladies underwent during the sickness of the daughter and sister, only once in a while a woman with them from the neighbors, and when the young lady died, we had to furnish the coffin and I assisted the only woman that could be got to put the corpse into the coffin. Six of our staff were the bearers. I really feel sorry for this family for they are good union people. I am glad you called on Em and am certain you could not but be pleased with her. You know I always express my regard for her by wishing I was married to a woman just like her, and I do! Although I said the young lady here was very pretty, I did not pretend to compare her with some of my northern lady acquaintance, for I am sure my southern cousin would suffer by the comparison. I expect to come home as soon after the 15th of January as possible, may possibly in December, but my commission as 1st Lt dates Jany 15, '62, and I may not come till then, but as I have long since decided come I will - this Winter too. The two officers in that picture were Lts Kincaid and Alvord. One the former was wounded at the Wilderness and afterwards lost a limb at Deep-Bottom, the other Lt Alvord was my 2d Lt. who was mustered out of service a few days since. What do you want to know for? Are you particularly smitten with the style of either of them? I guess not! I give it as my official opinion that you have a perfect right to criticize or comment upon my Phiz even in your Ma's picture. You can not be more severe than you were in your judgment on that apology for a picture that I sent you last. Remember me kindly

to Mrs. Gubbins on her arrival. I am so sorry I have got to leave my chimney that I almost dread the order to move, for I am fixed for house-keeping on the most approved plan, and you have no Idea how snug and comfortable I am. How the Army suffers!

Kind regards to Mrs. Getty and Sarah and all, and for yourself accept the kindest regards of,

Your friend

Waters

P. S. Of course I return the picture of the gentle Annie as agreed.

W--

(*Note: See letter dated April 8, 1865 from Jones House.)

HdQrs 3d Div 2d A. C.
Oct 28, 1864

Dear Uncle,

We have just returned from a two days tramp down on the left flank of the Army. Were fighting all day yesterday, and at one time the Rebs were on every side of us and such fighting as there was there I never see before. I think take it altogether that we had a little the best of the Rebs (?). But we left suddenly in the night and returned to Jones House. There was the 2d & this Div of the 2d Corps and Greggs Div of Cavalry. We lost very heavily, also the Cavalry. Two of this staff were wounded, one mortally. We took a great many prisoners, I dont know how many. During our fight the 9th & 5th Corps extended their lines towards the South-side R. R. I dont know whether or not we accomplished all we went for, but think we did. I think I never was in a warmer place than that place yesterday. But I am all right. Dont know yet as to whether we are to occupy our old line or not. I will write more fully tomorrow, as I only write now so you may know as soon as possible after you hear the news from the fight, that I am safe. Love to all as ever

Your aff. Nephew

Waters

Hdqrs 3d Div 2d A. A.
Nov 3d 1864

Friend Maggie G not N -

Can it be possible that I have been writing to Maggie N. and directed it to you. I guess not, but that you read the papers, you speak of Em Ellis & Frank Holmes. That accounts for it. What they don't know no one does. Do I know them? Ever since I was a promising "one year old" and long enough before I knew the difference betwixt G or N. And Miss Matilda S & Sister know more about me than Em, Frank, and the two Maggies altogether, or even myself. As for Maggie N- she is my friend and as such I esteem her. I think I know her perfectly well. I have said some things to you in confidence I trust they will not be repeated. I have told the same to Maggie herself. She is perfect, but for one fault. And as a friend she is perfection its-self. Enough of that. I hear a thousand and one things, one half of which I can't believe the other half I won't. I presume you do the same. I have become as they say in this country "powerfully well" acquainted with the young lady here, but she too is wanting in one thing. I always think in her presence, of a passage in "Byrons" "Childe Harrold",

So coldly sweet, so deadly fair,

We start for soul is wanting there,
and it would take a great many more acres of Virginia Soil, and Confed Stock to win my allegiance from the Northern Star. How in the name of all possible and impossible, can I decide who you prefer in that picture. I don't know which one displayed the greatest amount of "Shoulder Straps & Brass Buttons" and you have the picture and can judge best. Were I in the least conceited I could decide at once, but rather in my extreme modesty leave it to yourself.

I would like to know the decision if it were not asking too much? Since I last wrote, we have been about twelve miles from here towards the Danville R. R. found the Johns awaiting our arrival, and they were not slow to greet us. On the 27 of Oct. we were fighting all day, and for about four hours just before dark we had some of the hardest fighting that ever fell to my lot. We were completely surrounded, and cut off from the rest of the Army, and had to fight our way out. At sundown we had the best of the Rebs at all points, but concluded to leave during the night, and back we came. We lost two of our staff wounded, one mortally. The "Powers that be" say we accomplished all we went for. I wish I could believe it. We are in our Old Quarters at Jones House. I am housekeeping in the same old spot and comfortable as possible, notwithstanding we have had a three days storm. Reb Deserters come in nightly, who report that the Southern Confederacy wants to die & can't do it, as long as there is a hope of the Election of McClellan which God grant may never be. I don't think I understand you about the good looking "nurses" being so much wanted at the Hospital. Don't apply you are certain of a refusal on that ground. I give that advice as a friend of the family - having attended one wedding and invited to the next - and would not like to see their feelings hurt, and they would be. One thing I forgot in my last that was to ask you one question viz: What was it you wrote on the margin of the "Waverley" and then in a repentant mood cut out so carefully? Please tell me Mag? I begin to think I shall soon wear citizens clothes. I am going to try and come

Dec. 7 but have very slight hopes of it before Jan. 15, 1865, No signs of a move now, and if we have one more days rain it will be impossible for some time to come. Tell Frankie he shall have the Gun & flag if I ever get home alive. I tremble for the youth if Bob comes home and he insists on telling Bobs affairs to everyone, and advise him as a friend etc. etc. to quit it immediately. Has Mrs. Gubbins arrived and is she still the happy being you would make me believe some time ago, or has "a change come over the spirit of her dreams" Now see if you can profit by this bright example of "Promptness" in writing. Remember me to all the Gettys for two generations back and one to come. As for yourself I am ever the same.

Goodnight

Waters

HdQrs 3d Div 2d A. C.
Nov 8, 1864

Dear Cousin Abbie,

Yours of the 1st was received a day or so ago. Also one from Uncle W- last evening. Nothing of interest has transpired since I last wrote except on Saturday night the Rebs tried to retake that part of the line which we took from them some time ago, which has ever since been a bone of contention. We were apprised of the attempt and were prepared, and of course it was a failure on their part. We took about forty-two prisoners and lost none. We lost four killed and thirteen wounded. The Rebs between two & three hundred killed & wounded. The "Johns" applied last night for permission to bury their dead which was granted and from 9 to 10 O. C. to-day was given. I was out with the "flag of truce" and had a long talk with the Rebs and got some Richmond papers. It is said that Genl Hancock is to be relieve from the 2d Corps and assigned to the command of a Department. He is to leave tomorrow, I am going to Corps HdQrs tonight with our band to serenade him ere he leaves us. This corps will miss him very much, do not know who will command it in his place. As a general thing I do not have to take part in the fighting but am always on the field with the guard, to receive prisoners, prevent stragling, and in the event of any part of our line should be broken, to assist in reforming it. That "scrape" on the "left" was a very peculiar one, not likely to occur again in a year, and two of our staff being wounded I had to act as an "aid" to the Genl. Although not required to by the duties of my department could not well refuse, and would not in such an emergency. When the reputation of the Genl and Div was at stake. It is very natural for a staff officer to stick up for his Genl and I am bound to do it for my uncle Mott. I see by the "T"Times" that the first man who died at the Troy Hospital was one of the 86th N. Y. in this Div.

I feel very certain of coming home this winter, only two months and seven days. That can't last forever. We are having considerable rainy weather now very unfavorable for active campaigning. Sime Newcomb is well. He is coming home for good when I go, we are keeping house together very comfortably. He wishes to be remembered to all.

Love to Uncle, Aunt, Mary, Lib, Eph, Kill, the baby and all up to Union Villiage. Remember me to all the young folks, especially the young ladies - and with Love to yourself I remain

Your aff cousin

Waters

P. S. Enclosed I send Kill a genuine Reb pass to Richmond and return, given me by a deserter.

W

P. S. Enclosed I also send to Lib a picture of Capt Scott of our staff. He used to live in Troy. I used to go to school with him. His father kept the store yard where St. Johns church stands.

W

HdQrs 3d Div 2d A. C.
Near Petersburg, V.a.
Nov 12, 1864

Dear Uncle,

Your kind letter of the 3d Inst was duly received. I am very much obliged to Dominee Barber for his good opinion of me and for expressing it as he did. On the evening of the day I wrote to Abbie I took over our band to Serenade Genl Hancock and did give him a good one. I had quite a talk with the Genl for an hour or so. He is to leave us soon, where to go we do not know. I do not know who will command the Corps in his place. Day before yesterday I was down to the 9th Corps and visited John Sheldon. He's a "Commissary of Subsistance" had a very nice visit with him. He enquired after all of you. I expect him to see me in a day or two. I do not see what has become of my brother William, have not heard a word from him in six months. You did not understand me about coming or staying, into the service. I am not coming in again unless I have to. I suppose I can get Recommendations enough to cover a barn. In fact they want to recommend me now for Major of the Regt and do not know but the officers will, but I wont take it. I have sent my mind on coming home in Jany and come I will. I think my accounts with U. S. are all correct, if so I will only be detained a day or two. I expect to be in Troy about the 20th of Jany as it will take two days to get to Washington, two days there and the rest to get to Troy. I may stay a day or so in New York to get some clothes for citizens life.

Everyone here seems to be satisfied with the result of the late Election, even those who voted for McC. think it is as it should be. I am anxious to hear that Fenton is elected for governor, but the papers seem to know nothing about it or else wont tell. There is some talk of a move, but not much signs of one. I have no Idea of where or when it will be if at all.

Give my love to all the family at Troy or away and believe me to be as ever

Your Aff. Nephew

Waters W. Braman

HdQrs 3d Div 2d A. C.
Nov 16, 1864

Dear Cousin Lib,

I am very sorry to think I have offended you, or to have given you the impression that I got Mad about those rumors. And when you deny any I hear about you as I did that in regard to myself I shall not think you are getting mad at me, but I believe what you say. I am glad the election passed off with none of the anticipated troubles. I guess the union-leagues were to well organized to give the Roughts any hope of succeeding in accomplishing anything by violence. Isn't the result glorious too? especially to think that Seymour is defeated. That suits me to a charm.

Has Major McConihe called at the house, he said he would when he left here. I would like well to be at home Thanksgiving day, but I am coming so soon that I can celebrate the day when I arrive. I am much obliged to you for your offer to send me a box, but I have everything heart could wish that is possible to get to the Army, there is no doubt but a box would reach me and that too within a week, and if you choose to send me some cake home-made or something of the kind you may be sure it would be welcomed and appreciated, not less by my friends than myself, but it would not last twenty-four hours. The whole staff would give me a "surprise-party" untill it was totaly demolished.

Sime Newcomb was promoted to Capt. about a month since, he is in for three years, or rather that is the understanding with all who accept promotion since July 15, 1864, but I think he will leave the service somehow if and when I do. And that will be two months from yesterday. I do get the papers sent, but I also get those sent to Dominee Barber direct from the Times office and so those sent from home are about four days older when they come, but I am glad to get them and send them to the Troy boys in the 93d so don't stop sending them.

I wrote to Kill to send me six (6) yards of black silk braid $\frac{1}{2}$ inch wide, to bind my overcoat, has he sent it. I wish you would get and send me as soon as possible, by mail 2 yards of stout black sliik twist for working button holes, 1Doz skeins of black sewing silk, medium size, and $\frac{1}{2}$ yd black silicia for pockets. I am having my big overcoat turned and made over, it has been in Wash- ington all summer and it will have to do me all this winter even after I come home. I have a tailor in my guard who can make a coat equal to Deacon Rundell.

Love to all at home and over the River, up in the Country and every- where. My kind regards to all friends, and believe me to be your loving and affectionatly mad cousin

Waters

Hdqrs 3d Div 2d A. C.
November 17 1864

Friend Maggie

The nightly prayer of your humble servant will be that there may be a snow storm every Sunday untill I arrive safely in Troy, as that one seems to have been providentially sent for my benefit. Blessed be the storm that brings a letter from Maggie G --. The reason why I desired to know what you had written on the margin of the Waverly was, that formerly, you used to mark those pieces that particularly suited your fancy, but lately I look and search for one little verse or some piece marked by Maggie G but no, not one, and when I saw that, I was so disappointed at it that I determined to overstep the boundary of gentlemanly curiosity and ask you. Well! I am so much better informed now that I shall certainly ask again when I desire to know more. I only spoke of Em & Frank because I can remember when I was a little chub and Em Es telegraph was there in full operation, lines connecting all over the city. As for the other young ladies, I could not say positive that they do not live in Third St. But oh! Maggie could you not at least tell me who was the favored one in the picture. I would love so well, to know which of my friends to congratulate but no! I am not curious any-more, untill I get home then you can-not refuse to redeem your promise. Will you? I too am the recipient of a letter from your loveing brother, he tells me the news of his approaching wedding, to which I replied expressing my surprise, how honored I felt for his confidence, and my congratulations to him for the happiness in store for him etc. etc. Which of my cousins was it that called? Oh! Excuse me, I beg pardon I do indeed, I forgot, dont answer that? Please, I'll think it was Abbie. And I am to be married, am I? Why bless your heart that isn't news. I knew that long ago, at least I have heard it so often from home, that I begin to believe it. Honestly I do believe that all that prevents its being true is that I have not asked someone for fear she would say no. You did not think I was so timid, did you? Mercy there's another? It only lacks two to make one thousand times that I have heard aforesaid rumour, and if I hear it just twice more I will be desperate by the time I get home. So get the tailor to work on your dress, for I just as much expect to hear two times more that I am to be sacrificed, as I do to get home. I like the Episcopal Church very well, full as well as Presbyterian, but you naughty Maggie how dare you ask me a question after refusing so many. Much fun you will have in the country, wont you? I hope you may see your happiest anticipations more than realized. Think I will go up to Union Villiage soon after I get home, but only for a visit of a day or two. My regards to Mrs. G --, Sarah, and all. Write soon, snow certain on Sunday.

Ever of thee

Waters

P. S. Have just received two Waverlys, but worse & worse not even the trace of Maggie's penknife, never mind!

Good night

Waters

HdQrs 3d Div 2d A. C.
Nov 30th 1864

Dear Kill

Your last was received some days since. The Braid is O. K. also the things that Libbie sent. I am going to have my old big coat made over into a frock coat, and its going to be just gay. I am having it turned tother side out and made so I can have citizen buttons put on and it will be just as good as new when I come home and will have to last me this winter any-way. The Acct is all right. Our Paymaster is at City-Point and if he comes up I will get a months pay will take a check and send it, as I shall have no use for it, I have got money enough now that I am saving to take me home and buy a suit of clothes in N. Y. City enrout.

We got paid about four weeks ago and I got all my back pay, and for comdg co. when I was a Lieut, that the other pay-masters would not pay me, so now I have about \$400.00 on hand and that ought to do, and I shall have two months & a half pay due, when I quit U. S. Were I in any other position on the staff my expenses would be death to my salary, but a Pro. Mar. is a Dead-head here. The 2d Corps moved yesterday and to-day and we are now on the extreme left of the Army and are anticipating a little rest after our arduous duties in front of Petersburg. The 9th Corps take our place there. We got our share of the "Thanksgiving Turkies" but the funniest of all was that the box sent to me by the "commisary" for our HdQrs was one from Troy put up by E. Waters, containing a Doz Turkies and Ducks-chickens-pies & cranberry sauce & doughnuts in abundance, and they were all good.

I had a letter from reliable Bob last night. All right on the Plato, helm hard up for the Port of Matrimony. Thinks he will make a harbor early in the spring. If you desire to come down to the Army, (as I should be very glad to have you), I will get a pass and send it to you. Come now, or wait until the first of Jany and then stay untill I am going and we will see the sights and have a tear in and around Washington, that would suit me best, but if you can come now best, say so and you shall have the documents to bring you right away. You can see more than you ever thought of seeing last winter, and if you want to bring any of your frineds all right say so I'd send them a pass too, and will warrant them good care here.

I am well as ever. Love to Em the baby and all over home.

Yours Sincerely

Waters

Hdqrs 3d Div 2d A. C.
Dec. 2d 1864

Friend Maggie,

I shall never disbelieve in the efficacy of prayer hereafter, for is not rain just the same as snow, both are made in the same place & surely both cause you to write, and this time two more of our race were made equally happy with myself. Maggie you have a remarkably accomodating memory, it would be an "india rubber one" only it is too short to stretch much. As for your friend "Edla", me thinks I have heard of Miss Gregg ere this, also of her amiability, perfections, and other virtues, but I beg leave to differ with you in the susceptibility of my poor heart, and your so certain expressed oppinion of its loss to me at first sight of the aforesaid young lady. No! I'm "tin-clad" now, and think I could withstand Miss G-- (Gregg I mean) in her most fascinating moments, even were her attacks sustained by your aid. Miss Maggie is she really so dangerous? How glad I am, now I can look out for her if I should chance to meet her this winter. And what a debt of gratitude I shall owe you if I pass the ordeal unscathed. I think I will write to Em & Frank to meet me somewhere between here and Troy I shall certainly need to be advised, and then the certainty of hearing all the local news will be a great advantage to me on my arrival in the Classic Halls of Troy. I too am the recipient of another favor from Robt I - he complains of my not answering his other letter, but I guess he is half cracked with the idea of his approaching nuptials, and so couldnot realize that sufficient time had not elapsed for my answer to reach him then. Have answered the last one also. Thanks for the two last Waverlys, "Shoulder-straps" is good but M. W-- is better. Thats a good joke on myself.

We succeeded in getting our share of the "Thanksgiving Turkeys" but not untill the day after "Abraham Sunday" as the boys called the day of Thanksgiving. You know that anticipation excedes the reality so we enjoyed it for one day more, but the good things were duly appreciated by all. And the funniest of all was that the box sent to me by our commissary for our Hdqrs, was one from Troy, put up by E. Waters. Our Corps has been relieved from duty in the works before Petersburg and we are now on the extreme left and rear of the Army and are indulging in hopes of having some rest, said hopes may be delusive ones though. I hope not. My kindest regards to your Mother, Sarah & all, don't cheat yourself out of your own share. I do not know as this is an answer to your last, I hope yes. (I don't mean the last you are ever going to write but have written). I will only add in the words of "Wm Lord Byron" viz. - "What is writ, is writ: Would it were worthier."

Yours in sincerity

Waters

P. S. Write soon, you wont have the chance to do so very often, but just have as many snowy or rainy Sundays as you can conveniently in the month of December and first two weeks in January. Please do? to oblige

Ever the same

Waters

HdQrs 3d Div 2d A. C.
December 3d 1864

Dear Cousin Libbie,

Again I have the pleasure of acknowledging your last favor, of the 25th ult, and adding my tithe of thanks for this last instance of your kindness to myself. The things were all right, and my coat is in progress, and I expect it will be as good a one as can be bought in Troy for \$40. One of the members of my guard is making it, he has made quite a number out of Government Overcoats and he makes them just as nicely as Rundell can. So there will be much less "dry-goods" to buy when I come home. I wish you would do me yet another favor, by getting money at the office and buying a Christmas present for the children, Ems baby, Carries "little Abbie", Lyds children (I dont know how many she has but get something nice for all) and if you can do so, for Hattie and Allie and send it to them. Also buy something nice for Mary Augusta. I dont care what you get for them all, use your own judgment, and send them as coming from me, and that must do as well as if I was there in person.

I wrote Kill that we had changed our position in line. We are getting very comfortably fixed as to Quarters, and we are away from that everlasting "Picket firing" which we have been entertained with for so long. I had my yearly amount of sickness a day or two ago viz: one days sick headache but am all right and feeling better, if possible, for it. Forty-two days more for me on the sacred soil of V.a. How long that seems and how very short the past three years appear to me, and yet I can remember days that were as weeks in my memory. I haven't told the Genl yet that I am going out of service, and I dread to tell him, for he does not like to have his staff changing, even if wounded or killed, he will keep their position for them if wounded for any length of time, and we all like him very much. It will be like leaving home for me. Love to Uncle, Aunt, Abbie, Em & Kill & the baby, Mary A- and yourself from

Your Aff. cousin

Waters

P. S. No signs of a move, but cant tell in this country what is to be. Waters

Head-Quarters, 3d Division, 2d Corps
Office, Assistant Commissary of Musters
Dec 12th, 1864

Dear Uncle,

Your kind letter of the 3d Inst was received just a week ago, but as we immediately started on a raid, I could neither answer it or let you know that we were to move. We started very unexpectedly. The force consisted of the 5th Corps and our Div also Griggs Div of Cavalry. We went directly to the rear of the Army and then diverged to the right crossing the Notaway River and struck the Weldon R. R. at Jerret Station and destroyed it from about six miles above, to Bellfield below. The R R was most effectually torn up, this will prevent the Rebs from building a branch around the left of our Army from Stony Creek Station or receiving any supplies from that direction. We marched over One hundred miles, the entire movement was a success and will reflect great credit on Genl Warren who commanded. The 3d Div did their share and will undoubtedly get their proportion of the praise. We returned to camp about four hours ago. It fell to our lot to cover the falling back across the Notaway, and we think it was done in style worthy of the 2d Corps. We were flattering ourselves that we were to have a little rest but it seems we are needed to take a part in everything that is going on. We shall not be surprised at anything we are asked to do in the future, and as for rest or anything like winter-quarters, we dont indulge in any such hope now, we were so certain of it before. I have come to the conclusion that our Div. must be a very wicked one and that there is "no peace for such". None of us regret that we went, or would feel bad if called upon again. In fact I think that there is a prospect of a move of the whole army soon. I regret to say that a great deal of Private property was destroyed on the raid, and at least forty Houses burned unnecessarily. We lost a few men by stragling and so being captured. Had skirmishing continually but no heavy fighting. The box has not yet arrived but I am expecting to enjoy it soon.

I am in perfect health and am counting the days from now to Jany 14th. I hope Kill will come down so as to go home with me. I captured a colt on the raid which I am going to try and get north. The boys got lots of apple Brandy on the raid and call it the "Apple-Jack raid". Love to all, and believe me as ever.

Your Affectionate Nephew

Waters

P. S. Please excuse this letter, but I am pretty well tired out.

Waters

Head-Quarters, 3d Division, 2d Corps,
Office, Assistant Commissary of Musters,
Dec 13, 1864

Dear Cousin Libbie,

Your favor of the 8th Inst is just received. The box has not yet arrived. I am expecting it daily. You might have sent the wine to me, as no boxes are opened only by Pro Mar of Divisions, and I dont think there would be much harm if I was to confiscate my own wine. I never have disturbed boxes directed to Officers and I do not think that orders required me to but I do open all boxes addressed to enlisted men and sieze all drinkables therein contained, and turn the same over to, and take a receipt from, the chief medical officer of the Div. But never mind I dont care about the wine.

I did receive a letter from Chaplain Barber coming from Abbie, and was under the impression that I had answered it. If not, it was an oversight on my part and I will make due amends by writing to her in a day or two. As for the armlets, get them by all means. I should have liked you to get them all something about the same in value except Mary, but if there is any differance I would as soon give it to Ems baby as any, so get the armlets.

I wrote to Uncle yesterday and dont know anything of news except that we are to go into camp and fix quarters on the Halifax road, near Weldon R. R. I hope we will stay this time untill we get done fixing up. We shan't move our HdQrs for a few days untill I get the new ones fixed. Will only move about a mile and that is not far in the army. Got my coat finished and think it good enough for Capt or Citizen Braman. I am well as ever. Give my love to all the family and remember me kindly to all friends, and believe me as ever.

Your aff. coz,

Waters

Lib

HdQrs 3d Div 2d A. C.
Dec 21st 1864

Dear Cousin Abbie,

I received your favor thro politeness of Dominee B- and thought I had answered it, but what with Raids and changing and fixing HdQrs I have been busy every day. We have got a very nice place both for the troops and our HdQrs. The Genl went home on an "Eight day leave" yesterday, to attend the funeral of a nephew who was a Lieut in the Navy. I have got a most unpleasant task on hand for Friday the 23 Inst and that is: to direct the execution of the sentence of death, by shooting, upon a man of the 1st Mass Heavy Artillery, in our 2d Brigd. His crime is "desertion", although I would gladly avoid giving the fatal word that is to sumon a fellow soldier into the presence of his God, yet I look upon it as a duty, and have not the slightest sympathy for him or any one who deserts his colors. This man was a Canadian who came to the States to get the bounty and undoubtedly intend to desert at the time he enlisted. We are having rather unpleasant weather, but not more so than is to be expected at this season of the year. Is Kill coming down? I don't hear a word from him on that subject. Sime Newcomb is well except a "boil" where he sits down, he wishes to be remembered to all the family. Give my love to all, Uncle, Aunt, Em & Kill & baby, Libbie, Carrie & Job & family and all Wash. County ditto! Remember me kindly to all Park Church friends, and wishing you all a most "Merry Christmas" and "Happy New Year" I remain as ever,

Your Aff. Coz.

Waters

P. S. The box is not yet received. Of course I keep expecting it daily.

Waters.

HdQrs 3d Div 2d A. C.
Dec 24, 1864

Friend Maggie,

Almost had I come to the sad conclusion that the Sabbath day was entirely disregarded at the north, but am most happy to see that I was mistaken, and that you are still alive, not gone to Salem and a half dozen other things that I conjectured as the reason for your long silence. And as for my writing, I expect to write at least once more ere I start for the land of Sleighrides and Skating Parks, which will be on the 15th Proximo, and then you can count (at least I suppose so) two (2) days to get to the City of "magnificent distances viz. Wash. D. C. two (2) days there to settle accounts with U. S. and then for home, probably on the 20th or 31st will see me once more in the honored city of Troy.

Can it be possible that I either said or implied that your friend "Edla" was a "flirt". I can scarcely realize that I could have so far forgotten good manners, and now you were "so long" writing, that instead of clearing my character by a flat denial, I must perforce appologise. Had a letter from Robt last night same mail with your own. He give a graphic account of his present troubles as well as alluding to those in prospect. You can imagine how glad I am to hear that he had a narrow escape, that's the fun of the whole thing. He would not take the world for that hole in his boat when he gets out of the service. It will be a pride to such a man as Bob. The failure of Wm. T. was news to me, but not at all surprising, for as my respected Uncle W. W. W. would say "he had too many Irons in the fire". Yesterday was to me the most unpleasant in the service, for it became my duty to direct the execution of a young man sentenced to be shot to death for desertion. Mine was the duty to give the fatal word which sent a human being, a fellow soldier from this life to the presence of his God. I trust never to have the same to do while in service or out of it. But as I felt upon the occasion I could have shot a dozen such as he. He died bravely, never shrinking and not liking to have his eyes bandaged, but enough of that. It seems as if it was done a month ago. You will undoubtedly see the whole account on the first page of the T. T. over the signature of L. B. as he officiated as chaplain on the occasion.

It is almost needless for me to say "I am well" for I have yet to be sick in the service. I do not think the 3d Div will have a chance to extinguish itself on the field of battle before I go home. At all events I shall let it be understood that there need be nothing of the kind on my account, but of course we are ready if wanted, and I never yet saw a move that we were not. Kind regards to all. Tell Frankie, I wont forget that gun & flag. "Merry Christmas to all, and to all a good night". My regards.

Sincerely your friend,

Waters.

HdQrs 3d Div 2d A. C.
Dec 24th 1864

Dear Cousin Libbie,

Your favor of the 19th inst was received night before last. The "Butterfly Neckties" are very nice, just what I wanted, please accept my sincere thanks. I am very sorry you misunderstood me about the presents, I am sure I was perfectly satisfied with your making the presents, and as I left it with you at first, I expected to be satisfied, so say no more about it, as for the Armlets I said and do say "get them by all means". As for the amount, I do not see how you got presents for \$2.00 in these times. I am very much obliged to you for the trouble, but it only adds one to my many obligations to you all. As for Ems baby, I think it is all right too, and I never saw it but I know I shall think so. As for going to Union Villiage, I shall want to go, and I am ready for engagements, but have none now, so I will go. But I don't propose to go all over the country, when I get home, for I propose to do something for a living, and to buy shoes for the future young Bramans*, I don't know of anywhere else I want to go, except the Villiage, and perhaps over to Cambridge, maybe to Salem, but my visit will be so short that it will not make them "twice" and scarcely once glad.

We had an execution here yesterday at which I officiated in my official capacity. You will probably see an account of it in the T. T. over the sig. of L. B. as he officiated as chaplain on the occasion. The man was a Canadian sub and was a hard case, but he died very bravely, refused to have his eyes bandaged but I compelled him to submit to it, as it is customary, and I could not ask my men to fire at a man staring them in the face. He was instantly killed, was struck by eight bullets out of nine. He was a good looking young fellow, about twenty-one years old. I do not crave any more such tasks, but as I felt then, could have shot a dozen such as he. The example was very much needed in this Div among the Substitutes, as he was killed instantly I was spared the painfull necessity of putting him out of misery with a revolver, as would have been my duty. The occasion was one of great ceremony and everything passed off well. It was very solem.

Love to all at home, and abroad, I am well and counting the days. As ever,

Your Aff. cousin

Waters

Coz Lib

P. S. No Box yet. Express tomorrow, live in hopes.

"Merry Christmas to all and to all a good night."

(*Note: He and Maggie later had 10)

- KIRKWOOD HOUSE -
Sprague & Co.

Is the place for you to stop at when you come to Washington.

Washington, D. C.,
Jan'y. 16, 1865

Dear Uncle:

Have just arrived in Washington; had a safe and pleasant trip so far. There is no business done today in the different departments, owing to the death of Edw. Everett; all flags are at half-mast. This will delay me another day here, as I must have my "quartermaster" and Ordnance accounts examined and get a certificate of non-indebtedness to U. S. ere I can draw my pay. Do not think I shall get home before Saturday noon, will write you however from here and from New York where I propose to purchase clothing and come home a full citizen. Sime Newcomb is with me; we had a great time leaving Hd. Qrs. The General gave each of us a very nice letter and it was so totally unexpected and unasked that it really is of more worth in my eyes than otherwise; the staff also gave us a letter that together with the one from the Gen'l. we need not be ashamed to show to any one. There was a general regret expressed at our leaving, by all, and we left with a great many regrets too, more particularly did it make me feel bad to have the men, those under my own command, and others whose names even I did not know, come and bid me good-bye, and express their regrets that I was going. I shall ever remember the last few days at Hd. Qrs. as they showed to me more conclusively than aught else could, that I had done my duty in the Army and that I leave behind me a host of friends; but I can tell you all when I get to Troy. Washington is dull as can be. I shall get away from here as soon as possible. I meet many of my old Army friends here, and have had an offer to go to Savannah already.

Love to all.

Your aff. Nephew,

WATERS.

C O P Y

Kirkwood House
Washington D. C.
January 17, 1865

Friend Maggie,

Your last favor I recd just before leaving Hdqrs 3d Div, for this city. First I have to express my thanks for the scarf, which arrived about a week ago, and was very much admired at Hdqrs, by none more so than myself, by whom it will be prized not only for its own sake and the comfort it will bring, but for that of the giver, whom I shall ever remember as I wear the gift, it is just the thing to keep me from catching my "death a cold" by change of climate from the "sunny south" to cold but dearly loved north, and I do think if anything helps to restore me to my friends it will be the scarf. So Maggie accept my sincere thanks, and allow me to say that it will one day be my greatest pleasure to re-ciprocate.

I arrived here safely yesterday morning, and found all the Departments closed out of respect to the late Hon. Edw. Everett, that delayed me one day in my departure from here, but I hope to get away to-morrow night. Capt Newcomb of the 93d and my "chum" and fellow house-keeper for the past five months is here with me. I do not think he will be able to go on with me, as his accounts are slightly mixed, and I can't wait for him long. I now hope to be home by Saturday night, so don't be shocked if I do myself the honor of calling on Mrs. Getty on Sunday. We had a fearfull time taking leave of Hdqrs. almost cried etc. I'll tell you all about it some day. Washington is the same dull, Vile city it ever was to me, and I am anxious to leave it.

My regards to Mr & Mrs Jones & baby and all at your house. Hoping soon to express my regards in "propria persona" I am, as ever,

Sincerely Yours

Waters

Maggie

(Thursday Night)

Kirkwood House
Washington, D. C.
Jany 19, 1865

Dear Uncle,

I am still here and expect to be detained untill Saturday night, that is the earliest I can hope to get away, the reason is, there is such a rush of Officers at the Q. M. Genls office that I cant get my QrMr a/c examined, am promised it tomorrow, if I get my certificate early in the day I may get it through the Second auditors office tomorrow and then will only have to get my pay on Saturday, I get my "Ordinance" papers through in a very few minutes. I am sure my "quarter-master" accounts are right too, tho trouble seems to be to get them examined.

There are a great many "old officers" going out of service now, the city is full of them, all having accounts with U. S. to settle. If I stop over in New York to get clothes I cant get home before Wednesday-noon.

Love to Aunt Hannah, Abbie, Lib, Em & Kill & baby and to all up to Union Villiage - and believe me.

Your aff. Nephew

Waters

Kirkwood House
Washington D. C.

Friend Maggie

Will not get away from here this week, so I don't expect
to get home before Wednesday noon.

My regards to all your family, and my friends.

Sincerely your friend

Waters

Maggie J. Getty
West Troy, N. Y.

Union Village
February 6, 1865

Friend Maggie,

I shall not be at home on Wednesday as I had hoped to that I might accept the "invite" to Miss Hatties - for which I am very sorry as I know of no place I would sooner go to make a short visit. We have not been over to Salem yet as Carrie wishes us to stay to the "Hop" to-night, shall go over tomorrow, and shall probably come home on Friday. My regards to self and all.

Waters

Maggie

Jones House,
Prince George
April 8th, 1865

Capt. W. W. Braymon;

Dear Sir & Bro.,

I have been thinking sometime of writing to you to express somewhat my gratitude for your kindness to my family while you were here and to my dear child while sick.

I did not find that you were the man when I saw you at my house to or have an opportunity to do so after; but he assured I shall ever esteem you as a kind friend & Bro. and should feel myself honored should you ever come to Virginia to have you call on me. I cannot express my feelings towards you but be assured that if I am ever in the providence of God able to pay you in any way I will do so.

You have heard doubtless that Richmond and Petersburg are now both ours and the Flag of Union now floats over both, and I think you would do well to come south to see the two cities, as there will doubtless be great demand for timber here when this war closes.

My Family send much love and Respect to you, My old Father also he often speaks of you and would I know be glad to see you. I almost scolded my wife for not making known to me that you was the man that I might express my gratitude to you in person before you left my house. But may the Good Lord deal bountifully with you that your liberal sole may be made fat and if we never meet in this world may we meet in the place where it will be said in as much as you did unto one of the least of these you did it unto me.

I now close by saying come if you can to see me and believe me to be

Affectionately & Fraternally yours etc.

Samuel H. Jones

(Note: addressed to
Capt. W. W. Braymon,
Troy, N. Y.

West Troy Sept 26, '65

Dear Lib,

I have not written to you for the reason that I had nothing to write. The Committee who were to decide on what to have for the Church & Sunday School came to the wise conclusion not to have any doings now, but wait till winter. So you just hit it by not waiting, for it before going.

According to promise I taught (so far as able) your Sabbath School Class. The boys were pretty good, but they don't know the catechism at all.

In regard to my own affair I know nothing further. We had hoped to hear from Robt ere this but as yet have not heard a word, his folks are somewhat worried about him.

Sarah Jones is very sick and if she does not get better soon I may hurry matters a trifle.

Am going to New York this evening, and will know more deffinite on my return, and you will probably be home soon.

The folks are all well, baby R-- included.

My regards to all.

Yours

Waters

"Excuse haste"

West Troy Oct 2 /65

Dear Cousin Lib,

I received a letter from Bob on Saturday, and another to-day, and he does know, as to whether he can come home or not, and we have concluded not to have any one stand up with us, as I don't want to ask anyone else. And we have also concluded not to have the ceremony performed in the church, but "at home" instead. Sarah Jones is very sick indeed and if she does not get better soon, we shall hurry up matters sooner than talked of.

Kill is sick, he is threatened with a fever, and has to keep indoors, but I guess it will not amount to much. Hope not anyway. We had two incendiary fires in West Troy yesterday. Neither one amounted to much.

Uncle Waters does not feel remarkably smart, the rest of the folks are well.

You must be enjoying yourself up in the country, inasmuch as you are remaining so much longer than you intended. You will be so fat we won't know you.

If anything new transpires in my own affair I will write you. *

Give my regards to all, and believe me,

Your affy

Waters

P. S. The Baby is well and gay as can be.

W-

(* He was married to Margaret Jane Getty Oct. 26, 1865,
She 20, he 25 years of age).