

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

1861 - 1865

LETTERS written while in service

by

WATERS WHIPPLE BRAMAN

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

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

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

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

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

93rd Regiment N. Y. S. V.

"MORGON RIFLES"

Camp Rathbone, Jan. 31, 1862

Mrs. Waters W. Whipple,  
Dear Aunt:

It is not likely at present that the regiment will go before Tuesday or Wednesday, but I would like to have my trunk all packed so that I can fetch it down on Monday morning if I come up on Sunday. If I do not come up, I wish uncle would send it down on Monday, but I will try and come up on Sunday afternoon. If I don't, I hope you will all come down so as to bid me good bye.

The other night after I got here I was sick all night with the sick headache, but had to act as the Officer of the Guard next day, but although I could not sleep any last night either, still I feel all right again.

Enclosed I send a photograph of Capt. Colvin of Co. A. Tell Lib to keep it on the parlor table for me. I guess I shall have some of my own taken tomorrow. If I do you can get them when any of you come down, or I will send them up.

With love to all I remain

Yours in haste and written in the dark.

Lieut. Waters W. Braman

Co. C 93rd Regiment  
New York State Volunteers  
&c            &c            &c

Head Quarters 93rd Regt. N. Y. S. V.  
Camp Rathbone, Albany, Feby. 7,  
1862.

Dear Uncle:

The regiment has not gone yet, and from present appearances will not go in two or three weeks. At any rate we are to have muskets to drill with while we are here, and the boys are calculating on having a good time here on the Fourth of July at least. They say that is what the muskets are for.

It is certain that the Regt. will not leave until they are paid off, and there is no funds to do that with until Congress makes an appropriation, and that will take them sometime yet.

And the sutler at this post is beginning to trust the men for anything they want. And he would not do that if we were not going to be paid here, because he belongs to Gov. Morgan, and the Govenor knows all about it.

Enclosed I send a couple of my photographs, and a couple of certificates which I wish you would give to Ephriam, which he will dispose of as agreed between us.

I do not know as I shall come up on Saturday or Sunday next but I shall certainly come up again, and perhaps two or three times before we go. When we do go it will probably be in a hurry.

We all got our Commissions today, and as they read I am the oldest officer in the Regt. as it was dated a year back, I suppose by mistake, and so I had to send it back to be altered.

If I don't come up Sunday I will send some of my big photographs up Monday night.

Yours truly,

Lieut. Waters W. Braman.

Park Barracks, N. Y.

February 16, 1862.

Dear Aunt;

We arrived safe after twenty hours travel on the cars, all safe and sound, and are in tip top quarters at the Park.

We are going to Rikers Island tomorrow afternoon, and I do not think we shall stay very long there. Our rifles are all here and waiting for us, and we are to have them as soon as we get on the island.

It is only about twenty minutes sail from the city, and if any of you come down write and direct to me at that place and I will come over and see you.

The men all feel well, but we are having such good news from the South, they are afraid they will not get down in time to see the fun.

When you or any one writes direct to Lieut. Waters W. Braman, Co., C. 93rd Regt., N. Y. S. V., Rikers Island Barracks, and it will come all straight. When we get settled there I will write again, so that if we should go to Staten Island instead you could know where to write me.

Give my love to Em. and all the folks, and don't forget to send that photograph that I marked to Lydia the first chance you get.

Yours truly, but in haste,  
Waters.

Headquarters 93rd Regt. N. Y. S. V.  
Camp Bliss, Feby. 19th, 1862

Dear Em;

We are all settled in our new quarters on Rikers Island about 11 miles from the city up the East River.

We have pretty good Barracks and shall probably stay here five or six weeks, at any rate three weeks as we have full supplies of coal and stores for that time. But it will all depend on the movements of troops at the south, and I hope they will make some move pretty soon if it does have anything to do with us.

I opened the box last night for the first time and came near finishing the cider fried potatoes and nut cake.

Our rifles came yesterday and are to be distributed to the men tomorrow, but not any amunition until the men get a little familiar with handling the guns for fear of accidents. The guns are Enfield Rifles and very good ones too.

I might have come up to Albany again to see the sick men and stragglers left there but inasmuch as we did not have but two men left I thought it was no use, not but what I would have liked to come and see you all.

If any of you come down to N.Y. you can come up here by coming on the city cars from the Astor House up to Harlem and then cross over in a skiff. It is possible that I may come up again before we leave but not very probable.

Give my love to all and tell them I am very much obliged for fixing my things for me. They are the best in the Regt. and I could sell my trunk for more than it cost they all like it so much.

Yours truly but in haste

WATERS

PS

Tell the folks to direct to Lieut, Waters W. Braman, 93rd Regt. N.Y.S.V., New York City and I will get it as we have a postmaster who goes down every day.

WATERS

Camp Bliss, Rikers Island  
February 23rd, 1862

Dear Friend;

I received Uncle's and Libbie's letters by mail and also one by Bob Getty. This afternoon he was up to the Island a little while but would not stay all night. He did not bring the box up so I shall have to go down to the City tomorrow, but I think that if you are kind enough to send it I can well afford to go after it. The other box is just about gone and here let me thank you all for it. The things were all very nice as all the officers will testify, and also for this one for I am sure it will prove equal to the other if it came from home. Speaking of home, I never felt that I had a home so much as when I read Uncle Waters' letter, especially the way in which it closed.

I was very glad to receive Libbie's letter, not only for the news which it contained but for the expressions of kind regards from all.

I guess it was full as well you women folks did not come down to Albany as I should not have been likely to have seen you; and if you had gone down to Greenbush it would have been the same, as we did not get there until about dark, We had to wait there about an hour in the cold for the cars to be got ready. We came through without accident and altho' some of the Companies had men left behind at the different stations, we did not have a single one left, and with the exception of Jack, have not a desertion in the Company, and I can hardly believe yet but that he will come yet. I think the Cox folks in Albany got him on a spree, but do not think he intended to desert when he went down town, and, if they who did persuade him knew that the penalty was death if caught or such other penalty as a Court Martial shall decide, I don't think they would have done it, and, if he is caught (and there is two or three looking for him) without he returns of his own accord, and that pretty quick, I pledge my word that he shall be dealt with to the full extent of the law. But when I heard he was gone I did not believe it for I would have about as soon suspected myself as Jack. He must want to live the life of a dog and a coward if he has done so. He must want to come back to Troy I should think. I know I should want to get as far from anyone that ever knew me as possible and I hope that every relation I have got in the world will forsake me, if I ever forsake the Flag at the last moment, as he did us, but I may meet him again. I hope it will be soon and I hope it will be coming back to duty like a man; but if it ain't that way God help him.

(\*Now, Rensselaer, opposite Albany)

Libbie, I saw that young lady who was waiting anxiously for the 93rd to make its appearance in N. Y., and spent a very pleasant evening indeed, but I had not seen her until after you wrote, although I had her address from someone in Troy, but I thought they were fooling me about the number of her house, but I found everything all right.

Tell Em she can have that Photograph that I marked, if she wants it, or any other but the one Aunt Hannah picked out.

We have pretty good Barracks for men but not very good for the officers. My bunk is in the third story opposite the store and as near to it as possible to get. The Regt. is getting along pretty fast as far as drill is concerned. I am trying the rifles every day to see how they will shoot. We practice sometimes at the distance of about  $3/4$  of a mile, at a Rock out in the river, and sometimes hit it, and can see every shot when it strikes in the water.

The prospect now is that the Regt. will be payed off within a week or two and leave immediately for the South. I did not see EMMET or the young lady from W. V. as I have no time to go on a wild goose chase of that kind.

Give my love to all the folks, to Cally and Lydia, and believe that I remember you all and still remain as ever

Your Nephew and Cousin

Waters W. Braman.

Headquarters 93rd Regt. N.Y.S.V.  
Camp Crocker March 9th, 1862

Dear Uncle;

Here we are down in Dixie, one and a half miles from Washington on the Bladensburgh Road near what is called the Bladensburgh toll gate. We are encamped on the side of a hill where it is very pleasant. There are 8 or 10 Regts. right in sight. The encampments look splendid all laid out in streets and the tents all regular and white as snow.

There are two Regts. of regulars and it is worth while to see them. I wish to mercy I was in the regulars instead of the volunteers. Most of the Regts. are expecting to leave every day and I think likely we shall cross the Potomac in a few days.

I have got a big tent about 10 feet square and the Capt. and Milo have one too. The right way is for the Capt. to have one and the Lieuts. between them, but the Capt. has got a big bed big enough for two and so Milo is going to sleep with him. I have got two or three of the corporals in with me for a few days until we get two more tents and the Capt. and Milo has to do the same.

I am well as can be and getting fat as a pig since we left that Blissfull Island which I hope never to see again. I like being camped out here, in fact I feel better than any place since I have been in this business. Perhaps it is because we are nearer the scene of action. At any rate the men are just beginning to be soldiers. They were too near home to learn much before.

We had a lovely time coming down on the cars, which we took at South Amboy and came via Phila., where the ladies gave us a splendid supper as it was about midnight when we got there. There was 5 Regts. of us on the Road one after the other and they fed them all there. They have splendid accomodations there and I think it was rightly named when it was called the City of brotherly love. They fed us also in Baltimore but it was rather poor after eating in Phila. The men will always remember what they got there and the good looking ladies who served. Co. C gave them three rousing cheers or rather six, three for the city and three for the ladies, with a will.

The men were rather tired, not so much with the travel or marching but standing still at all the places when we had to change cars with their knapsacks on, which is worse than if they had been marching.



We see all kinds of Regts. passing every day going over the river and it is fine to see them with baggage trains and all.

We are right at that Spring where the folks or rather where the soldiers were poisoned. One of the Regts. had a sentry shot there four or five nights ago by the enemy's scouts, who are even on this side of the river and even in the City of Washington some dark nights, for you see we are only four or five miles from them anyway and we hope soon to be nearer.

The Black Horse Cavalry, Col. Morrison, are only two miles from us and they say here that they are likely to be discharged and sent home. I do not think I shall have time to go over and see Mr. Knight.

I am as contented as can be here but I often think of home and all the friends I left there.

We left the Island rather unexpectedly. I was abed the day about noon when the orders came. I had been up all the night before trying to get one of our men down to Blackwells Island that had the smallpox. I had to tend to it myself as none of the men that could do it would have anything to do with him as they were afraid of catching it, and the Capt. and Milo had never had it and so I had to do it myself. We had to take him down in a small boat and go through Hurlgate in the night at that; but the Col. ordered him to be taken off that night, so it was done. If he had let us wait until next day, I should have got some one to go in my place; but still a fellow cant have it but once and if I have got to have it I may as well if I caught it.

If the doctors were worth anything the man should have been taken down two or three days before he was, but they don't seem to know what is the matter with a man until he is either well or dead, expecially the latter, then they are particularly active in getting him under the sod. If they are no better surgeons than they are doctors, I pity the boys if there is ever a battle in which the 93rd has a hand.

If you write direct to Washington and I will get it while we are here, and if we leave, the letters will follow us, and I will write when we are going to leave. Don't forget to put the letter of the Company and No. of the Regt. and N.Y.S.V. on the directions.

We have our regular rations and cook ourselves or rather we don't cook ourselves but cook the rations ourselves.

Give my love to Em and all the folks. I will write  
to Lib and Em both in a day or so, and one to Aunt Hannah too.

Write soon

Your Affectionate Nephew

Waters W. Braman

PS Excuse the writing but I am awful tired and in a great hurry  
and would not write at all tonight but I thought it was my  
duty to let you know all about it as I wrote you I would.

Yours,

Waters

Meridian Hill, Washington, D.C.  
March 18th, 1862

Dear Uncle:

Your welcome letter came to hand in due time - also one from Libbie - tonight. As you see by the above we have changed camp grounds. We struck our tents this morning and moved here- we are about the same distance from Washington as before, but on the other side, we came here as our Brigade is here.

Tomorrow at 10 O.C. A.M. we again leave, this time we do leave, for we are not allowed to take any of our tents for men and only one wall tent (which is about ten feet square) for the officers of each company- and I guess I shall have to leave my trunk behind and only take such things as I need immediately - probably the capt. & myself will take a trunk between us in which case we will pack the other and leave it stored here - government provides for their safe keeping - and we will be allowed to leave about two men from each company to take care of the camp equipage.

You will plainly see the reason of all this as the troops are required to move forward so rapidly and in such large bodies that it would be impossible for government to provide transportation for all the baggage for it took 32- six horse teams to move us this afternoon, besides the men carrying their guns Knapsacks & Blankets. The Regt. is in the third Brigade of Gen. Casey's Division, our Brig. Gen. is Gen. Palmer a graduate of West Point in the same class with Gen. McClellan -- Our Brigade is composed of the 81st 85th 93rd 98th & 101st N.Y.S.V. and is said to be a splendid Brigade. We are to march tomorrow to Alexandria and from there on towards Richmond and hope to smell Powder in a few days.

Whether or no we do see any fighting will depend on circumstances as it looks now we probably shall. The Reg. has not as yet been paid off although we have been promised from week to week and they tell us tonight that we shall be paid in a few days and that it will follow us. It is a great wonder to me that the Regt. does not refuse to go if they were not good true men they would refuse. But there is not a single murmer although I have seen letters to men saying that their whole families had gone to the Poor House - and lots of them that were suffering for their pay which they expected from their Husbands at least two months ago. But so it is and it is part of a soldiers duty to do as he is told and say nothing - but you may judge whether you could fight any good if you thought your family was suffering.

I did not suffer any severe consequences from my exposure to the small pox, nor could the man have been provided for without a commissioned officer so you see the thing had to be done by some one.

I shall answer Libbie's letter as soon as we get any-where that I can get a chance to do so - but perhaps it will be rather short. But it will depend on the time I have, not on the wish to do it in a hurry - for I look with longing eyes for a letter from home even when I know there is no possibility of getting one, and I know it would not look well in me to sleight you. I have not been able to see Brother William as yet but shall probably do so in the next few days - and still I may be within a mile of him and not see him - but if our Regts. are encamped over night any where near you may be sure I shall see him.

Give my love to Lydia and Carrie when you write and to all the folks in Troy and West Troy\*- When you write direct to Washington and the letter will be forwarded, at any rate direct there unless you get different directions from me.

Your affec. nephew

Waters W. Braman

P.S. Wednesday morning

The Regt. is not going until tomorrow or next day

Waters

(\* Now Watervliet, N. Y.).

Head Quarters Co. C 93 Regt.  
N.Y.S.V. Mch. 23, 1862

Dear Libbie:

Yours of the 17th inst came to hand and was read with pleasure. It was rather longer than the one you will get from me. The pictures were very acceptable as the feminine sex are rather scarce down here -- You wished me to send you something from Dixie in a letter but there has been no chance as yet to send anything that would go in one, nor is there much that would seem like contraband on this side of the river but we are going over in a day or two and then I will send you something.

We are still on Meridian Hill in the same place as when I wrote to Uncle Waters. We are going on this expedition from Alexandria, and as soon as the troops already there have embarked, there will be about 60 M troops on the expedition and as the boats do not arrive as fast as expected you see it takes some time to ship all the soldiers.

The 93rd Regt. is to be paid off at last the eventful day is tomorrow I shall probably send home \$100.00 or so when I see how much I get. I shall send it by express probably, Tuesday or Wednesday either from Washington or from Alexandria.

I had a letter last night from Kill and shall answer it in a day or so from here if I find the Regt. is going.

Bob Getty was here yesterday I met him in the city day before and he came up and staid all night in camp with me. My tent is not fixed so nice here as it was over to the other camp, so I could not entertain him in great style. Our camp is only a little ways from Georgetown but we have to send to the city when we want to buy anything to eat as they are all Secessionists in the city of Georgetown and would poison us all if they could get the chance. In fact, one of Capt. McCornishes men was poisoned drinking liquor and in the 92 N.Y. they have poisoned 5 or 6 men in the past two weeks and I do believe that two-thirds of the population of this district are secessionists.

Bob Getty is going on the same expedition but not on the Boat that he left N.Y. with, as he has left her and is trying to get on some other vessel.

If we ever go to Alexandria I will try and look up your friend. You wanted to know who Milo was the individual who bears that name is the respected 2d Lieut. of Co. C. so you will understand.

We are to have a grand Review tomorrow afternoon if we get Paid off early enough there is to be three Brigades of our division and two other divisions present and there will probably be about 10 thousand soldiers on the field. I wish you were all here to see it as it will ge a grand sight.

If I can get time enough I will go down to the city and send by express a big thorn that I found here to put in the Parlor perhaps I will send it with the money, I guess I will get a little box to send it in but you must be careful and not break it in taking it out. I will write to Uncle Waters when I do send it. I have not yet written to Carrie or Lydia but intend to do so soon but I don't have hardly time to answer all the letters I receive from persons in Troy.

We have not the slightest idea of where we are going on the expedition nor do, I suppose there are many that do, besides, Geo. B -----, some think it is to Richmond, some to Reinforce Burnside but I think that either way will take us to the same place, Richmond.

I wish my trunk and about two thirds of my things was up in Troy and I do not know but I shall send it up one of these days and you need not be surprised to see it soon.

Give my love to all the folks and tell Aunt Hannah that the next letter to Kills and the one to Uncle Waters about the money I will write to her. -- And to the rest of you when I hear from you--

Your affect. Coz

Waters

Head Quarters Co. C  
93d N.Y.V. Camp Cassidy  
April 6th, 1862

Dear Uncle:

Your kind letter has just this moment arrived- I had been expecting it for about a week and I delayed writing on that account. I wrote a letter this afternoon to Em & Kill and another to Lydia. The mail which brought your letter is the first we have had in over a week. Our Regt. has seen a good deal of hard service in the way of Picket & Guard duty and everything but fighting- and that to with nothing to eat for whole days at a time and sleeping on the Ground when it came night- but that is nothing as that is what we came for.

The first night after we came here we were on the very outposts of the army towards York-Town and I had to post a picket Guard through a swamp after 10 O.C. P.M. for about two miles with nothing for a guide but the north Star. Not a very pleasant duty but somebody had to do it and although I had been officer of the Guard the day before coming down on the boat from Alexandria- yet they send me in preference to sending some others. It would have been comparatively easy if there had been a guard there to have relieved but you see we had marched with our whole Brigade beyond the Chain of Pickets and of course had to post new ones.

We have moved our camp since we came here and are now about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles from Newport News and in full sight of the James River and the Rebel Batteries on the other side.

I was down to the camp of the second N. Y. Vol. and saw Willie Whipple - Elijah Wm. had gone to Baltimore Julia Frank was down here but went back to Baltimore where the Family is stopping the day before yesterday.

I have not yet seen Wm. His Regt. left Washington more than a week before we arrived there- and left Alexandria a day or two ahead of us and the night I was on Picket I was within half a mile of their camp- but they were ordered off during the night, and although I found out they were there during the same night from a man of the Regt. who had been off visiting another Regt. and our Pickets arrested him yet I could not leave my post to see him. And I think the Regt. is in Battle at the present moment- at any rate we have news that they are having a pretty hard time taking YorkTown- we can hear the Guns all the while if we can not join in the fun.

We are under marching orders and it is certain we shall leave En Route for Richmond in a day or two and perhaps before morning, as last night they called up two of our brigades and did not give them any time to pack up what they left behind. When a soldier hears the long Roll he has got to start at the first tap.

As to that note, the money will be sent tomorrow or next day by Express and you may expect it certain. I will send it to you.

Give my love to all and believe me your

Affect Newpew

Waters W. Braman

P.S.

Perhaps I had better save twenty five Dollars of this money although I do not think I shall need it unless I am sick. If I do you can charge it to me and I will write whether I do keep it or not -- When you write direct to Old Point Comfort.

Yours & C

Waters



Head Quarters Co. C  
93rd Regt. N.Y.S. Vol.  
Camp Cassidy New Port News, Va.

Dear Em & Kill

Your letters came to hand as we were leaving Alexandria - since which time the 93rd has gone through rather varied scenes.

We left that place on Sunday with the mud about six inches deep, from there we had a pleasant trip down the Potomac to Fortress Monroe where we landed and marched to Hampton and there slept on the ground in a grave yard it seemed rather sacriligious to make a fire against a tomb stone or in a church, or rather in the walls of a church as you remember the place had all been burned by the Rebels and was certainly the most desolate looking place I ever saw.

The next morning we again marched about ten miles in the direction of New-Port News but a little to the right and right on the outposts of the army - towards York Town - and again yesterday we moved to our present position about a mile from New Port News.

We are in sight of the Rebel batteries on the other side of the James River - called the Pig Point Battery on which there are guns that could throw shells right into our camp. The Rebels have also Gun-Boats with which they have shelled quite a number of the camps but do not do much damage. We are also in sight of the sunken Frigate Cumberland - which you remember was sunk by the Rebel steamer, Merrimac.

Our forces were engaged in a battle yesterday but it is of no use for me to write you the particulars as you can get it better from the papers and there are a thousand different stories afloat in camp.

At any rate I was down to the camp of the 2nd N. Y. and saw them start on a forced march for Warwick at which place I think there is to be a General Hospital for the wounded.

John Quackenbush sent his respects to you both. I saw all the Troy folks and they all felt well. The Regt. were very nicely fixed in their old winter quarters and it will come rather hard for them to sleep on the ground as they are not furnished with rubber blankets. Neither Officers or men were allowed to take anything but what they carried on their backs - not do I think we will be when we leave and you need not be surprised any day to see my trunk coming home. I have got more traps in my trunk than a Regt. ought to have for service.

I was out on picket that other night after we got here and had to start in the night and post picket guards for about two miles right through a swamp which took till most daylight. We did not have any very strange adventures but found it rather a new business.

I saw the new Steamer MONITOR at Fortress Monroe. It is rather a curious thing for a vessel - but they think it is King of the Sea down here.

We are as far advanced in the war as the Regts. that came here six or eight months ago. We are under marching orders and likely to leave here at any moment and shall I think tomorrow. When you write direct to Old Point Comfort, Va.

The weather for the past few days has been splendid and the trees are all in blossom.

I had a letter from Lydia a day or two ago and shall answer it today. I have not yet had any answer from Uncle Waters as to whether or no the money came all straight in fact we have had our letters but once since we left Alexandria.

I shall probably write Uncle Waters tomorrow.

Give my love to all.

From

Waters

Youngs Mills, Virginia  
April 18th, 1862

Dear Uncle:

I recd your letter and also one from Abbie and another from Libbie at the other camp. I have also recd papers twice from home and once from Kill and they were very welcome indeed.

I do not know what to think about the Col. not sending that money for that note but he told me and so did the Adj. that the note should be met and three days before it was due they said they would send it that day, And the next day I was sick so that I could not get out of the tent and did not hardly leave the tent until the morning of the day we left to come here, and supposed all that time that the money had been sent. But it seems they had been trying to make Capt. Johnson pay it or part of it and so delayed sending it but the Adj. says it shall be paid and I don't know as I can do any more than keep at them until they do send it. I am very sorry it was not paid at the time of it but believe it will be paid.

I was sick for four or five days with a sore throat and a kind of Distemper that almost the whole Regt. has had and pretty sick too. But am all right now as you may judge for I was able to march 17 miles day before yesterday and carry all I have got here on my back and I feel as tough as ever now.

I found it impossible to get my trunk taken any farther as the Captains are only allowed one box to carry all the company Books in and only one waggon to carry the whole Regimental Baggage (all which looks like business) so you see it was impossible to take it any further and as we are likely to be in action service every day I think the least a man has the better they are off unless we were to be like the 2d Regt. in Barracks for six or eight months.

We are encamped about  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles from Youngs Mills or rather beyond, and only about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles from the Rebel lines- We are expecting a Rousing big battle every day for the Rebels evidently mean to make a strong stand at Yorktown or they would not leave their fortifications back here unless they intended to concentrate their force at that place, for at Youngs Mills they had splendid fortifications and winter qtrs. full as good as any of our own and evidently laid out by a skillful engineer

and in a place surrounded by a swamp where it would have taken ten times their own force to drive them out, but they left in such a hurry that our boys found a warm dinner all cooked and the fires burning when they first occupied the place.

There are all sorts of stories afloat here today about the Rebel Steamer Merrimac being sunk, and I wish it was so as it will make a great difference with our army about transporting provisions. I suppose you hear all sorts of stories up there about our army here but you need not be alarmed as we are closing in on them from every side and don't mean to fight until we are sure of thrashing them clean out and off the Peninsula. The enemy are firing more or less shells at our army every day but are not doing any damage, except the shooting of the pickets on both sides. Still, any moment we may be engaged in a general engagement and I am sure we will as soon as we can get 5 days rations for the whole army.

Enclosed I send the key of my trunk and I wish you would have the things taken out and as we expected to leave every moment I had not had much washing done for the last two or three weeks. I supposed even until  $\frac{1}{2}$  an hour before we left that I could bring it and had it all packed for that purpose and not for sending home, but the order came that we were not to take anything and I thought it best to take about two changes of underclothes and let the rest go home in preference to leaving it to be stolen as every deserted camp is ransacked within an hour after it is left by the Negros who are left here.

I just happened to get a chance to send it down to Fortress Monroe by our old Qtr. Master who has resigned. He offered to take it to Troy but as he was sick I thought it best to have him express it which he did and returned me the Recpt. which I enclose.

I wish you would tie up those letters and papers and keep them where everybody can not ransack them as I did not have time to see whether I wanted to send them or not. If I had known in time I might have sent the Girls a boquet of Sesech flowers and some other things.

Direct your letters as before and they will come all straight. I will answer the girls letters in a day or two.

With love to all I remain as ever,

(in haste) Your affec. Nephew  
Waters W. Braman  
20

Camp Bolton near Warwick  
Court House, Va. Apr. 20th, 1862

Dear Cousins Libbie & Abbie:

Your letters both arrived on the day previous to our marching and since that time we have moved nearly every day. I direct this to you both knowing it will be well received and if I were to write two separate ones they would both amount to the same.

We are stationed as you see above, near Warwick Court House and village of the same name. It is a miserable tumble down affair and the best building would disgrace any northern farmer if he had it for a barn. From the appearance of the country there seems to have been a total lack of energy on the part of the inhabitants, and I think the whole country is at least one hundred and fifty years behind the state of N.Y. in civilization, and the Negroes that are left say that they did not raise anything but Niggers that they sent south for sales and I think it is without exception the most poverty stricken land I ever happened to visit. Nor do I wonder at their wanting to secede.

As I am writing I can hear the guns of our Pickets and the Rebels having a little skirmish. The Rebel Batteries are about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles from the court house. We do not expect a general engagement for some days to come and yet we ordered to be ready (night and day) for a forward movement and prepared for fighting.

There appears today to have been quite a skirmish towards Yorktown to judge by the heavy firing in that direction. We are still about nine miles from Yorktown but we shall have Batteries enough to take as the Rebels have fortified almost across the Peninsula from the York to the James Rivers we are the extreme. Left of the whole army and are opposed to the Right of the Enemy. There is continual skirmishing all along the line and we think nothing of going to sleep hearing them popping away at each other with Rifle and Field pieces. Our men are busy every night building Batteries to oppose the same on the other side of a big creek (called Warwick Creek) which separates the two armies.

There is no doubt but when the Dance once fairly opens it will throw Bull Run or anything else in the shade. For the Enemy are fortified in a country that they are well acquainted with but it is full of the most

horrible swamps, which they have taken advantage of, but by the help of God! we will overcome all difficulties and teach the villains one lesson, so that they will not do as they do now that is call to our Pickets from the other side of the Creek to know if we remember Bull Run, and call them D .....d Yankees. They do not seem to know anything about Fort Donaldson or any of the Union victories.

For some reason or other they put none but Georgia & Louisiana soldiers on picket. Perhaps they fear some of the Virginians or North Carolinians might take french leave. Certain it is that their leaders are smart men and cunning as foxes -- and they will not give up without a fair trial.

It is now 10 O.C. P.M. and as I am officer of the Guard tonight I have just had orders to keep every fire out and to allow no noise as they are expecting that the enemy will try and throw a bridge across the creek, which is pretty wide as there is a regular marsh each side of it and they want all quiet so if there are any signals they can be readily seen and if our Brigade was wanted we could advance without a moments delay. And it is dark as tar and raining into the bargain, just the kind of a night for s surprise to be successful.

That Thorn which I wrote to Libbie I had got was indeed a curiosity but although I had it all laid up to send, orders came to march and if I had a wife and the order came to start she might look out for herself for all me. Nor do I have much time to collect curiosities as I do not believe there are many regiments but our own that have gone into active service as soon as we have, or seen more of it in the way of marching and Picket duty. In getting ahead we have been very lucky.

I wish you would have the things in my trunk taken out but kept so that if at any time during the war and I am alive and we are likely to stay 5 or six months in a place (which I hope won't be until this inhuman Rebellion is stopped) that I can write for it at all events as things have turned and look for the present I am glad I sent it home there may be some letters or papers that I do not want every body to read and I wish these to be taken care of as I had no time when I packed it to see whether they were good for any thing or not.

Give my love to Carrie and Lydia when you write and to Em & Kill and Aunt Hannah and all, and all the young ladies that inquire.

Yours as ever

Waters

Write often and accept much love from

Waters

Excuse the Blotting on account of the poor accomodations.

Army of the Potomac  
before Yorktown  
Head Qrs. Co. C., 93rd Regt.  
N.Y.V. April 24, 1862

Dear Aunt;

As I have not as yet written directly to you (Although when I write to one I consider it is to all) I thought I would direct this to you as perhaps it will be the last. But I guess not although we are within easy gun shot of the Rebels and likely to have a general engagement at any moment, in fact it cannot be delayed long unless the Rebels run before it comes. We are so near at any rate that last night about 6 o.c. our Colonel and Major went out to the line of Pickets, which is about as far from camp as from your house to the Steam Boat Landing, and they must needs pass the line a little and the consequences were they are probably at the present moment on their way to Richmond Prisoners. Some are uncharitable enough to say that they wanted to be taken, but I do not think it was the case. As you know the Col.'s Father is a prisoner with them and there is a great feeling here against their whole family. I do not know what changes it will make in our Regt. as yet. There is some talk that we are to have Col. Morrison of the No Horse Cavalry for Col., in that case we will probably have Capt. McNett for Major.

We are at present encamped about 4 miles from Warwick and about 5 miles nearer Yorktown than when I wrote last and instead of being on the left of the Army we are now in the centre of the line and opposite one of the Rebels largest Forts.

As we were marching in here I came across my Brother Wm. His Regiment lays just on our right so I see him pretty often. He is well and has been, and enquired after you all and wished to be remembered to all. I guess his Regt. will be put into our Division so we will be near one another. I might get him transferred to this Regt. if I could get any one to change places with him, but there is not any one in our company that is willing to.

About a week ago the Col. appointed his brother Wm. C. Crocker, Quartermaster of our Regt. and he is now acting as such. We are just now short of every kind of Provision except meat. We have plenty of that, both salt and fresh but no bread. I would give anything for a couple of loaves of your fresh bread. Perhaps we will find some in Yorktown which is only 5 miles from here.

Give my love to all the folks at home and abroad.

Yours truly,

Waters.



Head Quarters Co. C  
93rd Regt. N.Y. Vol. before  
Yorktown, Va., April 27th, 1862

Dear Uncle;

Your letter of the 22nd inst. arrived last night, also one from Kill and another from Em. We are still in the same place as when I wrote to Aunt Hannah being the longest stay we have made in one place for some time back. Our place in the line has been changed (I mean the place of our Brigade) from the left of the Army to about the left center and opposite two of the heaviest Rebel Batteries in reconoiterring one of which our Col. & Major were taken by the enemy not over 60 Rods from our camp.

The Lieut. Col. & Genl. Palmer each had a letter sent by a flag of truce to them by Col. Crocker but the flag came to the Pickets of another Brigade and the consequence was it went to another Genl. & then to Genl. McClellan instead of to them. All there was in the letters was to send him some clothes and to send the rest of his things home and saying that he was a prisoner, and was to be sent to Richmond. Yesterday Genl. McClellan sent an aide of his down to search the Col. & Majors things to see if he could discover anything treasonable but not the least thing could be found that could give grounds for even a suspicion.

There is nothing new except that daily we are getting more & more prepared for the coming struggle. We have the same round of Picket duty on which we see plenty of Rebels on their Batteries, but are not allowed to fire except in case of necessity because they wish the Pickets more to give notice of any movement on the part of the enemy than for the few men they might happen to kill and because they wish the firing for Signals on the Picket line. There is an exception to that however, for in one place about  $\frac{1}{2}$  a mile on the right of us the Sharp Shooters are continually firing if a rebel dares to show his head above the Batteries, so that our men can build a Battery to oppose theirs, and during the night there is a continual strife those on our side trying to complete the work and the Rebels firing shells and grape shot to stop them if possible so you see we have music all the time. It is very pleasant to be on picket in the night and hear the Guns and once in a while hear the Rebel picket call you a damned Yankee and everything else. Our men would blaze away at them and bring on forty general engagements every day if it was not contrary to orders from Genl. McClellan.

I also got the N. Y. Herald last night which was very acceptable but I could make a better map of the Rebel Batteries myself.

Waters

Camp Winfield Scott  
Va. May 3rd, 1862

Dear Kill & Em:

Both your letters were recd. and read by me with pleasure, also one from Uncle Waters which I have already answered and I have also received one from Libbie containing a silk handkerchief. As to the direction of letters to the Army of the Potomac, I think the proper way is to direct to Washington because then our letters come to each division in a separate bag by the way of Ship Point, and those that are directed to Fortress Monroe go there, unless the No. of the Regt. and Brigade is on and then they come by Washington no matter how they are directed.

The first notice in the papers about our Col. Maj. and Adj. being very near taken prisoners was only a hoax and was started by Gurdeon G. More who wrote it home to Troy. We all had a good laugh about it when we saw it in a Troy paper but since this last trip we laugh the other way. There is nothing farther new in relation to the matter only that Gen. McClellan has investigated the affair and come to the conclusion that there was no Treason about it but for the time there was a probability that the whole Regiment would be suspected and put under arrest.

A few of our Regt. have seen a little brush with the Rebels and myself and about 10 men from Co. H saw some real fighting and some blood shed. The way it happened was this last Monday I was Officer of the Guard and of course could not sleep any at night & the next day the first 5 Cos of our Regt. went on picket duty Co. C. with the rest but of course I did not go on account of being up the night before. This was Tuesday and as I was taking a sleep about 3 O.C. in the afternoon the 5 Cos. of our Regt. was called on to go out skirmishing for the purpose of making an armed Reconnaissance to ascertain if the Rebel Pickets were this side of the creek. And when I heard it I volunteered to go with Co. H. and after we had deployed as Skirmishers and were marching we came upon the Skirmishers of the 56th & 77th N. Y. Rgts. & the 11th Maine who had encountered the enemy and were falling back and as I had command of the Right of Co. H which was the Right of our Regt. and the center of our Regt. not coming forward the consequence was about 10 men and myself went forward with the other Regts. when they charged on the Rebels and did not know but the rest of the company was up even with us and it was impossible to tell on account of the woods being so thick so the skirmishers of the four Regts. got all in together and then charged on them and drove the Rebels out of the woods into the open fields and there they broke and ran for their forts which opened on us with shell & Cannister shot

but did no damage all the shell bursting in the tops of the trees, but before their pickets ran they made the bullets whistle pretty livley. The 77th had two men shot and the 11th Maine had one man shot. One of the 77th has since died. He was shot within six feet of myself by a musket ball which shattered his hip. The poor fellow groaned horribly but we soon passed him and had other things to think of. We remained in the edge of the woods untill dark (the bullets once in a while cutting the trees and ground pretty close to Uncle Sams devoted followers and it is strange to me so many balls can be fired without doing more damage) and then withdrew and joined our different regiments and then returned to camp. You should have heard the ten men that was with me after we got back to camp crowing over the other boys because they had seen smoke. The Rest of the Regt. broke of to the left and did not see any sport at all but it did us all good, as the probability is we shall have a pretty sharp fight in those same woods in a few days.

There are all sorts of stories afloat in camp about the other corps of the army and about the enemy all in our favor however. One day we hear that Beauregarde is taken another that Richmond is taken and today we hear that they are now leaving Yorktown but certain it is Gen. McClellen has gone to Washington and the story here is that the English and French Ministers are trying make peace between the North and South. If the Rebels are evacuating any of their Fortifications it is only to make another Bull Run affair of it.

The shells are bursting pretty fast, at the present moment not a quarter of a mile from here but it is only the opposing batteries making targets of each other. They are at it night and day.

It has not been officially announced to the Regt. that the offices of Col. and Major are vacant and so there has not been any provision made to fill them as yet. There are three or four candidates for both places of Lieut. Col. and Major as probably now the Lieut. Col. will take the place of Col.

I will write to Lib in a day or two if nothing happens.

Give my love to all the folks over home and my Respects to the young ladies next door --- and believe me still your affect. cousin

Waters

Camp Winfield Scott  
before Yorktown, Va.  
May 4th, 1862

Dear Libbie:

Your letter containing the handkerchief came in good time for as you said I had but one and so it came very acceptable. I should not have written today but that we are to leave here and do not know when I shall get a chance to write again and as our Chaplain has resigned and is going to Ship Point today on his way home I am writing in something of a hurry in order to take advantage of the chance to send this.

The Rebels last night evacuated Yorktown and their whole line of entrenchments and today the Union troops have got 7 or 8 miles in pursuit of them.

We were ordered to march this morning but as 5 companies of the Regt. have gone on Picket today we shall probably wait untill they can be called in & then go altogether.

The 93rd is in awful bad shape for yesterday Co. B. laid down their arms and refused to do duty because they had not been furnished with Sharps Rifles as was promised by the 1st of May. The consequence is the whole Co. has gone away under arrest except 16 men also the Lieut. Col. & Capt. Hobart & two or three Lieuts. are also under arrest and the Regt. is under general suspicion on account of circumstances which seem to have combined against us for the past two weeks. But I guess all will come right soon, there is a good deal of dispute as to who shall fill the vacant places in the Regiment and I do not know where it will all end. At all events Capt. McNett being the senior capt is in command today.

About that box, I wish you had sent it to Ship Point as it is there we have chance of sending instead of Fortress Monroe but I guess I may get it I will if possible.

Enclosed I send you a couple of cotton seeds which I got at a house that had just been deserted by a rebel family. I got them from an old negro or I would not have known they were cotton seeds. I rec'd a letter from Abbie and also three papers last night and will answer the letter soon.

Yesterday afternoon I was out to the Rifle Pits and saw lots of Rebels behind the fortifications and had them fire at me as I went across the open field to and from our batteries, but now our troops have possession of all the fortifications and we think they have retreated to the third line of entrenchments or else gone entirely to meet McDowell.

I will write tomorrow or next day. Love to all.

Waters

Camp Winfield Scott, Va.  
May 8th, 1862

Dear Uncle & Cousin Abbie:

I recd your letters of the 30th last night if we had staid where we last were should have got it on Sunday, but just after I had closed the letter to Libbie we were ordered to march and since that time we have been on the march after the rascals, who manage to give us the slip every night and then our cavalry and light artillery comes up with them about noon and then part of them make a stand to allow the rest to continue their Retreat, but every night when it got to dark to fight we have had the best of them because the Gen. kept sending fresh troops forward and they could not stand the press and before daylight the Rebels are gone again on Sunday we marched at about 4 O.C. P.M. and marched untill 10 O.C. at night when we camped for the night, before morning it commenced raining and we commenced marching again and marched all day in the Rain but very slow as the way was all blocked up by Baggage Waggons loaded with provisions and heavy artillery that were all sot in the mud which in some places was over half way up to our knees, untill we got almost up to where the Rebels were making a stand at their strongest Line of fortifications near Williamsburgh, then we had to go on the double quick for about two miles, and when we got there notwithstanding there were thousands of older troops there, we were ordered to throw of our Knapsacks for a fight and although raining at the time the men threw of overcoats and all and we were marched in line of battle into the woods within 40 Rods of the Rebel batteries and troops. The ground was in such a state that not much artillery could be brought to bear on them, there was one line of battle in front of us so that although shot & shell canister & Grape were flying over our heads within two feet of them, we did not get one single shot at them because our friends were in front of us. If they had been broken up it would have been us to take their place the Shell & Shot which passed over us in the woods killed a great many just behind us who were just in the edge of the clearing and behind them again there were three or four lines more of battle so it was almost impossible to have been defeated as the instant one line should waver another would take their place but luckily there was not much of that done.

I know of but one instance & that was the 55 N. Y. Guard Layfaette a large body of the Rebels approached with the Stars & Stripes and said they were friends and when quite near they fired and killed nearly

the whole of one company the 55th then charge on them & drove them back but were completely broken up themselves & the 93rd P. Vol. took their place and gave the Rebels fits. They had all kind of contrivances for killing us such as pits 40 or 50 feet deep and bomb shells called torpedoes which explode on being rubbed by a man stepping on them, they are buried in the ground. We found the same all along the road and some few men were horribly mangled by them. These things were all fixed by order of Gen. Magruder who it is said is a regular Blood Hound.

It was about 5 O.C. when we marched into the woods in front of the batteries where we remained about one hour & a half when we were ordered to relieve the regts ahead of us and marched in for the purpose but the Rebels left for the next line of entrenchments when they found fresh troops coming up so all we had to do was to follow up and that without getting a shot as the trees has been cut down making what is called a slash and so they retreated before we could get a chance at them to fort Magruder, the largest of all their forts on the Peninsula, which they also left before morning and our Regt. had to stand to their arms all night in the darkest I ever saw & it raining continually as hard as it could pour. The next morning after we had discovered that they had again given us the slip we marched back to where we left our Knapsacks, and built fires and eat the first meal we had for 24 hours. After a rest of about 3 hours we again marched to our present place beyond Williamsburgh where we have staid all night but expect to leave every moment. It is expected the Rebels will make a stand at a place called Chickahominy.

It was an awful sight the morning after the fight to see the dying and dead Rebel and Yankees but most of all is to visit the houses and barns used as hospitals and see the wounded and the piles of legs and arms that have been cut off. It is a good deal worse than to see the heaps of dead all tumbled into a grave. Some of the rifle pits & entrenchments that the Rebels used had been used in the Revolution.

I have not as yet got the box but all the express is to come to Yorktown and I have arranged with the Waggon Master to get it for me. I could write fifty sheets of the barbarity of the Rebels and of the expressions of the wounded but the mail man is waiting.

With love to all I remain as ever,

Your affec. Nephew & Cousin

Waters W. Braman

Co. C 93rd N. Y. Vol.  
New Kent Crt House  
En Route for Richm. Va.

Dear Em:

Your letter dated the 10th Inst. as just this moment arrived. I had been expecting two or three letters from home as I am sure I have answered all and have written four or five times since the last date you say had been recd.

We arrived here this morning just before daylight having marched all night. It is very tedious marching there are so many Artillery & Baggage Waggon in the way, and it is no small job to move three or four whole divisions at once, for those in front would be at least a days march from the rear. No person who has not seen it can form the least idea of this monster army and all the necessary appendages. We think nothing of seeing 10 or 12 thousand Cavalry all mounted and in motion right in one field. It is worth risking something to see what is to be seen.

We have some very saucy Sesech prisoners, and some of the fair sex are rather spitfull as we pass. This afternoon our pickets (Mounted) caught a rebel Col. Lieut. Col. Major & Capt. just over the lines - as soon as they found they were caught they tried to fool our men with a flag of truce but our boys were to sharp for them knowing they would not be likely to come with one with their arms & equipment all on. I have just seen them they are very saucy. Their arms had to be taken from them.

I thought I wrote all about that skirmish which you say you read in the times. It was in a letter to you and Kill. I do not see why you have not recd. it. The way it was half of our Regt. was on Picket among the rest Co. C. I was not with them, so when the remainder of our Regt. was ordered out of course I volunteered to go and went partly as a guide on account of my knowing the way through the woods and also to assist Capt. Wilson of Co. H who has no Lieut. We were deployed as skirmishers (also Co. B. the other three companies acting as reserve) and then marched forward towards the enemy. Our Regt. was on the extreme left. I was on the right of our skirmishers who I kept pushing forward and by some mismanagement the center of Co. H. did not move up and the consequence was myself and ten men got separated and went

still forward until we met the skirmishers of the 11th Maine & 56 & 57 N. Y. who had just met the rebels falling back and after we reinforced them we charged on the rascals and drove them from the woods across an open field in front of their fortifications which immediately started the shell & Canister shot at us. In this position we stayed until near dark when we returned, having accomplished all that was intended. I think the only man killed was killed within five or six feet of myself just as we charged on them. Send me the paper if you can get it. At this last fight, although we did not get a shot at the rebels still we would if they had not run, and they had the pleasure of firing at us for about 4 hours, and then we had to stand in front of their batteries until morning in a drenching rain, and then to march over thousands of dead and dying to their largest fort called Fort Magruder.

The Box has not come as yet, but it is not strange the way we are shifting about. Still am expecting a chance to get it every day.

We are not even allowed a tent for commissioned officers, nothing but tent blankets that each one carries to make himself a shelter as they are called.

We are going on tonight or in the morning and are expecting to whip them sure since we have heard that the Merrimac is sunk and our Gun Boats are all up the James & York Rivers.

With love to all I remain as ever,

Your affec. Coz

Waters



Head Qtrs. Co. C 93rd N.Y.V.  
New Kent Court House  
En Route for Rich - Va.

Dear Uncle:

Your kind letter of the 11th came to hand last night - also the map of the burnt district. I had heard the day before of the fire and was quite worried about it although I was almost certain that you had escaped this time. As it is it must be an awful blow for Troy.

I do not see how it is that you do not receive any more letters for I am certain that I have written two or three times to you & once to Libbie and once to Emma since the one you say Kill received. It must be that they are detained at head Quarters for some good reason-----

We are still at New Kent the same place from which I wrote to Em. We have been expecting to leave and are now under marching orders & liable to go at any moment. We are about two miles from Cumberland which is on the Pamunky river which is a branch of the York River at which place all the army stores are now being landed. I was down there yesterday and found the Adams Express but no box for me. There were three or four for our Regt. but they must have left Fortress Monro a day or so before mine arrived at that place.

We are about 27 miles from Richmond and are expecting a fight at Bottoms Bridge which is on the Chickahominy about 12 miles this side of the Rebel City.

We have plenty to eat. All the fresh Beef & Sugar & Tea we want we can buy at government prices even cheaper than you can in Troy. These are got of the Brigade Commissary who has orders to sell to officers.

About that note I think the Regt. will be paid off again soon and if I cannot get it thru I think you had better let Job try his hand at it and I am certain it can be collected.

Our Qtr. Master who is a brother of Col. Crocker had a letter from him last night dated at depot for Union prisoners at Richmond saying that they were closely confined and had their Mess with Col. Corcorane and also saying that he had no change of clothing and wished him to send what could be sent and to take care of the rest until his return.

I hope the 10<sup>4</sup> will be down in time to see the fun at Richmond and perhaps they may be needed, yet we are confident of giving them a good whipping.

Give my love to Kill & Em & Lydia when you write and to the folks at home. I have not seen my brother since the morning after the fight when he and some other Pioneers were burying the dead.

With love to Aunt Hannah and yourself I remain as ever,

Yours aff. nephew

Waters

(Note: This undated letter may not be in proper place)

Head Qrs. Co. C. 93rd Regt.  
N. Y. Vol. Encamped near Ropers Meeting  
House, Va.

Dear Uncle;

We are on the direct road to Richmond but have been encamped at our present place which is in sight of Genl. McClellans Head Quarters for the past 24 hours. We are however expecting to start very soon, they say we are to go by what is called the south road on which the rebels destroyed all the bridges and it is no use for us to go without our teams can get through.

The whole army is confident of whipping the rebels in this next great battle but the probability is they will not even wait at Richmond to give us a chance to fight them.

None of the papers we have seen have half an idea of the battle of Williamsburg nor of the number killed or wounded. The battlefield has since been all burned over to get rid of the dead horses of which there were a great number killed, mostly artillery horses and officer horses.

The appointments of Field Officers have not yet been made nor do I know who they will be. All the officers think they are entitled to the places and although I should like well enough to be Major still there are to many older - Captains - although two or three of the most sensible ones offered to try and have me recommended for Lieut. Col., for there is not an officer in the regiment pretends to contradict anything I say about military and as to the Spunk - twice under fire with any white feather and at the last fight or rather after it openly commended at Head Qrs. for coolness and what little spunk there was a chance to show, but still I do not think it would exactly answer to jump over so many yet if the thing was left to a vote of the men, I am sure that I could be elected Col - over Butler - who they still detest and with good reason - for he is an intolerable Tyrant and don't know as much about military as even some of the Sergeants.

It is no use to be in a hurry about these things. Wait patiently untill we have two or three good battles and then this Regt. will have some as good officers as any in the service for there is the material to make them of in the Regt.

The Box I have not yet seen but the Waggon Master says that all express for us will follow us so I am not likely to get it short of Richmond & it is lucky Em did not put the cider in for it would be in a nice fix.

I was very sorry to hear as I did by you and also from Libbie that Mr. Kerr had hurt himself by accident and I hope it will not prove serious as I should be sorry to hear that any of the friends had hurt themselves or were sick.

(Ropers Meeting House Letter Continued)

I have had your complaint for about five weeks but have got entirely over it now, but I had a good appetite & was able to duty all the while although I did not feel exactly well but I did not like to write that I was any way sick. I am now as well as ever in my life & hope to be untill this rebellion is entirely put down.

You have not half the chance to see how unreasonable a rebellion it is that we have here. I think it next to impossible to whip the Army of the Potomac just now for they have such confidence in themselves & leaders that they are ready to face anything they are told to.

I have received but one letter from you or any of you in two or three weeks but we have had but few mails for the past week.

If you do not happen to hear from me in the next week or two you need not be scared for if I could get a chance to write I do not know as I could send it. All the letters go to Gen. McC's Head Qtrs. and he sends them or not as he thinks there is to be any movement that requires secrecy.

I have not heard from Lydia but once and answered that once immediately Nor have I seen William since the morning after the fight when I saw him at Williamsburg. The 77th was not in the fight where we were. They were way to the right of us.

Give my love to all the folks Em & Kill & Carrie & Job & Lyd & Joe and to all the folks at home.

In haste

Waters W. Braman

P. S. The Regt. will probably leave in the night for Richmond which is about thirty five miles.

W.

Tuesday May 20th, 1862  
White House Landing  
Pamunkey River, Va.

Dear Uncle:

As you see by the above direction we are at the place where the government Stores and everything for the army are landed. The way we came here is this. On Saturday night we marched all night going from New Kent Court House to Baltimore Cross Roads, and there we lay over Sunday, and expected to stay over Monday, but about midnight came the order from Gen'l. McC. for the advance of the whole army, and also an order to Gen. Casey to send a Regt. from one of his Brigades of five Regts. and we were selected and before daylight were on our way for this place and the duty assigned us is guarding the different wharfs and the immense piles of Pork, Beef, Forage and every kind of Government property. There is also a Rail Road which although it did run down to West Point, the Rebels burnt the bridge at this place and so it will when in operation start from this place. There are lots of cars, princely baggage & freight cars, on board of vessels now laying in the River.

There are about one hundred vessels at this place, the wharfs are made of old canal boats all floored of with timber except one, which is a pier built by our troops. There is also at this place about 200 Hospital tents and in the event of a big fight it is intended to make a general Hospital at this place. Our Brigade lays today about 10 miles above us on the line of the Rail Road and although for my part I had sooner go on with the Brigade still some one had to be left here and it is a pretty important point too, and if the Stories told here that the Rebels are evacuating Richmond are true we shall probably join our Brigade as soon as that point can be made the Depot for military stores.

The worst inconvenience we shall suffer is having our letters go to the Brigade instead of getting them here untill some arrangement can be made and when you next write direct to 93d Regt at this place without putting on the Brigade and I think it would be well to put it 93d Regt N. Y. Vol. doing guard duty at White House Landing, Va. until you hear different from me

I wish you would have the girls get and send me about 3 yards of either very dark blue or green cord about 1/11 of an inch in diameter. I want it to put down the side of a pair of Pants which are light blue and so it must be very dark blue or green.

(Send the cord by letter.)

There is an Express office post office and News Depot where we can get New York papers published the day before. As to the box I have not as yet got it but expect to do so tomorrow as there is to be a lot of express up from Fortress Monroe.

If you can I wish you would get a small leather valise and put in it a pair of Boots with large tops about No. 9s, pretty good and middling strong, also about two white shirts  $\frac{1}{2}$  doz. collars and two more Red Shirts and two pair wollen socks, and the two narrow neck ties that were in my trunk, also the suspenders and a pair of Gauntlets gloves and my sash. That is all I think of unless it is some white handkerchiefs. The prospect is that from this place we can have waggons enough for Baggage. The officers who left their trunks at Newport News have not heard from them and do not expect to see them again & some of them were valuable. Send the Valise immediately and don't get too much in it as it is a very bad plan to have too much in the army, the least possible amount is the best.

If it is possible to get the appointment of major as things are I would like it. The only reason we were sent here was because the General had no confidence in our commanding officer & we have preferred charges against him which were signed by every officer but one and headed by myself, charging him with being totally incompetent to command a regt. and we were not wanting in instances of his disability. Another charge was one of insanity which I honestly believe and we have since ascertained that he was knowing to the intention of Co. B \* to lay down their arms in front of the fortifications and the men have not the least respect for him and mock him to his face which would soon demoralize the best Regiment in the service.

\* Co. B. is all right now.

Last night down to the dock I came across my old friend Hyde who used to drill us in the Bayonet & Exercise. He is Lieut. Col. of the 9th N. Y. Cavalry. They like the No Horse Cavalry have never had horses but have unlike them been serving as Infantry, but are to be mustered out of the service in a day or two. He is going to try and get the appointment of col. to our Regt, and I hope he may. The first thing he wanted to know was if I would not go to Mexico and fight the French & Spanish in case this was settled here in a short time. He thinks that is the place for him and me. He staid with me last night and says he has wished a thousand times he had me with him. Give my love to all. I will write to Carrie in a day or two and also to Lydia. Give my love to Em & Kill and Aunt Hannah and the Girls and to everybody.

Your affec. Nephew

Waters W. Braman

P.S. I have not started for Mexico yet. W--

Head Quarters of Guard  
at Whithouse Landing, Va.  
Whithouse May 23d, 1862

Dear Cousin Libbie:

Your letter of the 19th inst. was received by me this morning, containing also one from Carrie. There are six of our Co. on duty at this place, the rest being up to Gen. McClellan's Head Quarters about 12 miles from here. The duty we have to do is to guard the wharfs and also the commissary stores of which there are immense quantities, also have to furnish a guard for the hospital Tents of which there are at least 200 and are pretty well filled with sick.

The Sanitary Commission are also taking lots of sick daily on board of vessels provided and brought with them the doctors and nurses (mostly ladies) are for the most part volunteers. The most of the sick are however but slightly unwell and will be able to join their respective Regiments in a few days but were unable to accompany them in their forced marches. And if a man happens to get left behind why the sanitary commission wishing to get a large name pick him up at once and just as likely as not let him be sick or well, he is on his way to the Boat of Hospital before he knows it. Still they are doing an immense sight of good, and all credit be to them for it. But as an instance of their over zeal our orderly who was a little unwell and had to be left behind at Williamsburgh and the Committee picked him up and took him down to the boat as he supposed to stay for a day or so and then rejoin us again and the first he knew off went the Boat and he found himself in Washington, at which place he immediately wrote to us and is now on his way back.

As you see by the heading of this letter I am not only at the Whithouse Landing but in the Whithouse itself which is celebrated as covering the same ground as the one in which Geo. Washington "courted" and spent the early part of his married life, with his fair fame unblemished as is not the fame of his descendants. The house has been occupied by Col. Lee of the Rebel Army, but is owned by the wife of Gen. Lee of the same "vagabond mob". Mrs. Lee is the Granddaughter of Mrs. Washington. Her maiden name was Custis which was the name of Mrs. Washington's first Husband. I am placed here with a guard to protect the property which is very fine for this part of the country. The House is of modern build the old one having been burned down about 35 years ago, this one is on the same foundation however. Mrs. Col. Lee who left only the morning of the same day our troops arrived attempted to remove everything to Richmond, but was unable for want of time to remove much but the pictures and some other furniture. She intended moving it all and would have done so had not the Rebel Gen's. in their usual "Bravado" style assured her that the Yankees would never pass the last ditch at Williamsburgh but be

entirely annihilated at that place.

I am writing in what appears to have been their own bedroom but will be mine for the present. The furniture on the ground floor is all of Black Walnut and of very heavy style. I should think the bedstead alone was worth 60 or 70 dollars, from the amount of carving on the Head board and all the rest is to match except the dining table which is a plain black walnut extension table and is better to write on than any of the two or three marble top tables which evidently belong to this room.

I have Lots of visitors to look at the house, either officers of the army or Navy or members of the Sanitary Com-- and such civilians as I think proper to admit within the grounds, consequently I have also lots of Lady visitors whose curiosity is great as is also their propensity to tease for articles to carry home as trophies, but I can't see it exactly in that light while there is a safeguard from Gen. McClellan lying on the sideboard in the dining room. The consequence is I have to look sharp after all visitors especially the fair ones and to escort them all myself for fear the temptation of a nice little book or some other article might be too great for them. Among the curiosities besides the furniture is a package which contains the records & other books of St. Peter's Church near this place on which is also another safeguard. The Church is undoubtedly the one in which Washington married his wife and the Record of the same is said to be in one of the books, consequently the package is much venerated by all. Also there is a note from Mrs. Col. Lee which reads as follows: "Northern Soldiers who profess to reverence Washington forbear to desecrate the home of his first married life, the property of his wife now owned by her descendants.

(signed) A granddaughter of Mrs. Washington.

The plantation is a splendid one and contains 3048 acres of Land. There are at present about 200 slaves on the plantation a few of which remember the immediate descendants of the old family. About the house is a very nice and tastfully laid out Garden consisting of about 10 acres and containing Grass Plots, flower beds, shrubbery also Strawberry beds of which I have all I can eat every day as well as green Peas for dinner, in fact the garden contains every kind of vegetable that can be thought of, plenty of lettuce, corn, potatoes, cabbage, beets, radishes, currants and everything that could make a person happy in this delightful place. I am sure it would suit Uncle Waters to a dot. He could trim Grape vines and do all the weeding he wanted to do. There is an old negro slave about 80 years old who is constantly at work at the melons and other things in the garden which he says he has always done since he got to old for family coachman and strange to say he never entered the house of his master during his life. They took all the family servants with them to Richmond.



Enclosed I send you a rose bud from the garden. It is the smallest I could find. I wish I could send some of the larger ones of which there are lots of different kinds and really splendid to some of them - perhaps I may send by express a little box of something to remember the place and the war. There are some grand old shade trees about the house and it is very pleasant these hot days to sit on the back piazza and catch the nice breeze from the River which is not over 30 Rods from the house, the lawn running down to the waters edge. But enough about the house and grounds. As to the lady, she must evidently have been a person of a very fine taste for the beautiful and as large perhaps as her husband had for the dismal satisfaction of being a traitor to his country and everything sacred in the eyes of an American.

Our Brigade and Division are only about fifteen miles from here but by tomorrow night will probably have crossed the Chickahominy River and be still nearer Richmond. There are lots of troops both in front & Rear of them and it is also reported here from head Qtrs. that McDowell's left has joined the right of our Army and the fate of Richmond is sealed. I think probably McClellan will not give them a chance to complete the evacuation which has certainly begun and rapidly progressing - I think likely if our Army does advance the six companies here will move up and join the other 4 companies at McClellan's Headquarters & then rejoin the Brigade and I hope it will be soon as guarding Homesteads that are probably to be confiscated to the Government is not what I left as good a home as I had for even though the duty be in a responsible and pleasant place.

The next letter any of you write I think had better be directed as before, putting on the Brigade & division but the valise send to this place as ere this I have no doubt it is on its way. The Box has not yet arrived but I am sure of getting it soon the delay is caused by the enormous amount of the kind at the Fortress which is coming forward daily.

With love to all I remain as ever,

Your affec Cousin

Waters

12 P.M.

White House, Virginia  
May 29th, 1862

Dear Kill:

I recd. your letter also Harpers Weekly and a slip of the New York Times and on the same day came the box about which so much Ink has been spilled to a good purpose, for it is very acceptable and all but one or two exceptions in good order.

I am enjoying myself very much here having had plenty of vegetables, strawberries & such as you would not think of having in Troy and made lots of new and met some old friends. I have lots of standing invitations to visit the Boats occupied by the Sanitary Commission and also the U. S. Gun Boats. I am going to supper on the U. S. Gun Boat Marblehead and so you must excuse the shortness of this.

Enclosed with this find an engraving which I found in the White House and which I rescued from at least 50 old maids who are nurses with the Sanitary Com. who had made love to it and as soon as I was relieved from Guarding the House I froze to it expressly for you & Em, as a memento of the place and a Sesesh trophy.

With love to all, yours in haste,

Waters

I will write again in a day or so, I have written to Uncle Waters today and also to Carrie. Love to all,

W--

Head Quarters Co. C 93d N.Y.S.V.  
White House Landing, Va.  
May 29th, 1862

Dear Uncle:

Your letter dated May 24th came to hand last evening and am glad to know you are all well. The 93d is still on duty at the Landing except 4 companies. The duty is pretty hard in most places, the men being on duty every other day and night. Myself and 12 men have been Guarding the House of Mrs. Gen. Lee for the past week but have been relieved. I had nice times while there, having a good bed to sleep on and a good place to cook and we can get plenty of fish & eggs & such things very cheap for the gold & silver as it has been pretty scarce here for about a year and even now in camp we have about as good arrangements as when we were in Albany. As my mattress and all we left at Fortress Monroe & Newport News we have been allowed to send for and found most of them all right. That Box which has caused at least 50 inquiries by me has at last arrived the most of the things are in excellent condition in fact all but the bread, potatoes and crackers that were loose and everything without exception that was done up tight with paper is all right and all that was not so done up is spoiled. I am sorry about the Bread, still, we can get good warm Bread every day The Box is well worth the trouble of getting it and I am forever obliged to you all for your kindness in sending it.

I have been twice up the River in the Gun Boat Currituck but found all quiet. The last time we went out into the country on the other side of the River but found no signs of Rebels. It was about 9 or 10 O.C. at night and the overseer of a widow who professes strong union sentiments to whose house we went gave us a good supper. The widow herself lives at the River and we left a guard to look after her property. She has about 2500 acres and 75 or 80 Negroes and is said to be worth at least 250 or 300 thousand dollars, and is good looking besides. A nice chance for some good northern man.

The news of the Retreat of Gen. Banks does not affect the army as it seems to the people of the north. The Rail Road is in full operation from here and the Bridge is nearly completed when everything will probably be forwarded from West Point and we will go on to head Quarters and then to our Brigade again and if we are lucky enough be at the taking of Richmond.

That seems to be the height of everyones ambition here just now. The Rail Road is used for transporting grain & provision for the army up and generally brings down some provisions. The train which has just arrived brings only 500. We are daily sending them to Fortress Monroe and some of the biggest rascals to Washington that duty keeps three or four officers on the Route between here & those places all the while. I don't know but I may go to Washington in a day or two but it will be to go straight there and back again.

As to the Appointment of Major I am greatly obliged to you for trying to get it for me and I know that any advance gained honorably on my part would give you as much satisfaction as it would myself. As to the recommend of the officers I shall try and get, but there are at least 6 or 7 applicants for the office from our own Regt. and although some might for friendly reasons have a preference otherwise, none could object after the appointment was made for as to the ability none disputes that. As to that note, the adjutant I think has the means to pay it but has gone to Washington. When he returns if he does not see fit to pay it I think you had better give it to Job to collect. And tell him to push it through as fast as possible. I will write again as soon as he returns about it.

My own health has never been better than for the past month and I have never had to be excused from duty since I entered the service on account of sickness for which good health I have reason to be very thankful.

I found an old friend of mine, Mr. Hyde, at this place where the Regt. was to have been mustered out of service but have since been ordered to Washington to get their Horses. When he left he gave me a splendid Uniform Hat which could not be bought here short of \$8.00. He had two of them and gave me this to remember him. I have also found a young fellow by the name of Fisher who used to go to the Institute. The girls will know him. He is chief Engineer and ranks as Lieutenant on the U. S. Gunboat Marblehead, which lays at this place, and formed quite a friendship. I am going to visit him on board his vessel. He was with me on a little scouting party up the River the other night and has been to visit me since.

I shall write to Carrie today. Give my love to all the folks and friends of the family-

And believe me as ever,

Your affectionate Nephew

Waters W. Braman

P.S. It is reported here today that there has been a Col. by the name of Williams appointed to our Regt. and the rest of the officers are all trying to see who can get the start of one another about the Major, even the adjutant wants it. He is a nice man but totally unfit for the office and inasmuch as they are going in so strong there has quite a number spoken to me today and if you will get R. Sage or some one to see Gov. Morgan I think I might get it myself.

If you do, he might mention my being on the Examining Board at Albany and that I am at any time ready to undergo an examination for Field Officer - At any rate if you do have him seen it will do no harm and perhaps may do me some good. I think I could get the Recommend of the officers if necessary,

Yours in haste

Waters W. Braman

Head Quarters of the Guard  
White House Landing, Va.  
June 1st, 1862

Dear Uncle:

Within the past 24 hours I recd. two letters from you. One principally about the Majorship and the other containing the key to the valise which I see you have been kind enough to fix quicker than I expected, and I have no doubt I shall receive it in a day or so, as I have sent to Fortress Monroe by one of our Sgts. and I think he will bring it up tomorrow night. About the promotion. It will be impossible for me to get more than two of the Captains to recommend me as there are but five captains with us, the other five are up to Head Quarters of Gen. McClellan where they have been on duty for the past week. And two of the Captains here are aspirants for the same place. If I could do as much here for myself as I believe you have done for me there I would be sure of the Position. As it would be of no use to send a recommend signed by two and as we are situated I can't get up to Head Quarters to get more, I think about half of the Captains would be willing. Each one of the other half think they are competent to fill the place themself. If the Governor sees fit to appoint a person totally unfit for the position, the Regt. will soon let them know their opinion. All I can say is I am much obliged to you (as I always shall be) (for a thousand reasons) for trying to get the appointment for me. And if I don't happen to get it, I shall not feel very bad, but try again some other time.

As you doubtless know ere this Our Division was all cut to pieces yesterday and our Brigade with the rest. If we had been with them I should probably be either dead or wounded at this present moment. There was one or two Regts. who had not one hundred men for the battle this morning after yesterday's fight.

With a soldiers feelings I think I would have liked to have been up there yesterday, and much more today, but when I feel a little human I think I should be thankfull that I am not dead just now, or with 400 or 500 of our wounded officers and men who are being put on board the Hospital Boats. I have myself helped get a great number of them out of the cars and put them on stretchers to be carried on board the boats.

The Boats are fixed very nice for the business and Rebel & Union have alike the same attendance and plenty of good nursing. According to our last news our forces are driving the Rebels at the point of the Bayonet and I wish I was with them when they enter the Rebel Capital instead of laying ingloriously here doing general duty that is worse than fighting, perhaps I would tell another story if I had an arm or leg shot off, but I hope I should be able to stand it as hundreds of our wounded are doing now. What would you think of men who had an arm off and a shot through his head getting out of a car and walking 200 yards to the boat without a word of grumbling, and some with three or four shot holes through their hide. As I

am writing there is a whole train of cars loaded with wounded and as soon as the Steamer Elm City can get up to the dock the whole guard are going to help get them on board.

There are lots of Washington visitors here today who came down on a boat chartered by themselves, and brought their ladies with them. There are also lots of lady nurses who are doing a vast amount of good.

Enclosed I send Libbie some Sesesh money which is at rather a low ebb just now. If I could send them in a letter I would send some other things which I have and perhaps will send in a little box. I am afraid I can't send her anything from the White House as the officer who Col. Butler sent to relieve me has since been placed under arrest, and although he tried at first to throw the blame onto me by saying I did not give him proper instructions when he relieved me, yet when I spoke to Col. Ingalls (who is the head man here) he said he knew from the way things were kept when I was there and the way everything I had charge of was done, and the instructions he had given me himself he was satisfied. I had transmitted proper orders, and common sense should have taught the officer what he was to do. The House is now in an awful state and no visitors are now admitted. Col. Ingalls also gave Col. Butler rats for putting somebody in my place there.

The last news we had which was since dark (it is now most 12 O.C. at night) is that the city is taken and the Rebels were taking the double quick in great disorder down the railroad towards Dansville. If it is true Bull Run is in the shade entirely and must give up the Champions belt.

With much love to all the folks and friends of the family, I remain,

Your affec & much indebted Nephew

Waters W. Braman

To Waters W. Whipple Esq.  
Troy, New York

P.S. Direct all letters according to the original direction of Putting Regt. & Brigade on & Washington ----- Waters

The fight today has been a general engagement and the loss must be terrible. It is said the Rebels lay two & three deep in some places. Secession has received a death blow today.

Head Quarters 93rd Regt. N.Y.S.V.  
White House Landing, Va.  
June 5th, 1862

Dear Uncle:

This afternoon I had a chance to get my pay up to the 1st May, not from our own paymaster but from another who came on with his money and Pay Rolls to pay off a whole Brigade and as it was impossible for him to get up to his Brigade I scraped acquaintance with him and found a tent for him and placed a guard over it and so I managed to get my own pay in return. He says he knows our paymaster and can arrange it with him. In fact, I think the whole Regt. will be paid off as soon as this affair at Richmond is decided. There are three or four Paymasters here but it would be impossible for them to go up with Two or Three hundred thousand Dollars and try to pay off Troops that are stationed in Fifty different places and expecting to fight any minute.

I have sent this evening by Express One Hundred & Seventy (170.00) Dollars which I trust will arrive safe in due time I have saved \$52.00 which I think will be sufficient and if I don't have much I surely won't lend it and I can always write for some if I get entirely out of funds. The valise arrived the day after I wrote to you last. One of our Seargents brought it up for me if I had not sent by him I probably should not have got it in two or three weeks as there is an awful pile of the same kind at Fortress Monroe everything is all right, the boots are just the thing I wanted and in fact everything is just what I wanted and plenty of Room in the valise for my other traps. The cakes were so nice and fresh they went off like smoke. The Cake that came in the Box still keeps good and I am again obliged for them all.

There are a great many troop landed here and going forward every day. Today the 2d N. Y. Vol. passed through here on their way to join Heintzlemans Corps.

The Rail Roads still continue in full blast and are paying for themselves over & over. Yesterday and today they have sent a great number of boats up to make Pontoon Bridges so if the Rebels do flood the Chickahominy Swamp it will not affect our troops.

There has been considerable fighting above today first on the right & center & then on the left. The Rebels were Repulsed with heavy loss at all points we are confident of taking Richmond soon as McClellan will assume the offensive as soon as he is sure of success and nobody in the army doubts the success of his plans.

The censure which seems to be thrown on Caseys Division is pretty hard. The Blame if any should fall on Gen. Keys for putting them out of their place and not on the men who fought until compelled to Retreat on account of superior number on the part of the Rebels. The Prisoners say that they had seven divisions in



line of Battle one behind the other and all advancing on Caseys one Division. But in war if a man is lucky and succeeds he is called brave and is rewarded but no matter what courage he may have shown if he fights till death even, without being successful he is called a coward and made a scape goat for the sins of others.

I am entirely unable to say what moment we will rejoin our Brigade and we may stay here a month, but not very likely. Certain it is some one must stay here, and we find the duty very severe, the moment we are ordered to leave I will write you so you may know something near our whereabouts.

The Adjutant has promised certain that he will pay \$30.00 of that note this pay day and if possible I would like to get it without seeing him, and I shall try and crowd the other man. The bottle of Kino will be a good thing in this country when the water is not good, as what seems very slight at first soon runs into a fever in this hot climate.

I am on duty every other day and night but probably after today as we are not to guard the hospitals which took two companies the duty will come less often. Every day the last train brings down a lot of Prisoners which takes till 12 or 1 O.C. at night to dispose of - for Fortress Monroe - so the duty comes pretty tough, when it comes often.

I am making lots of friends here but still remember the ones at home. Give my love to them all and to Carrie & Lyd and Kill & Em & all the folks.

Hoping to be with you one of these days, I remain as ever,

Your affectionate Newpew

Waters W. Braman

P.S. All my last letters have been written in the guard tent and you must excuse all faults. Enclosed I send the Rebel money I forgot to send before for Libbie. Love to all, Waters

White House Landing  
Virginia, June 8th, 1862

Dear Uncle:

Enclosed I send you Sixty Dollars to pay that Note.  
I was on hand at the pay table and was glad to get the principal  
without the Interest or the protest which you can charge to me.  
I also send you Twenty Dollars for Peter McDonald - which you will  
please give him credit for--

\$60 to pay note.

\$20 for P. McDonald

I am well and enjoying myself as usual. Thos. Holmes &  
his brother in law Ackley are here tonight. With love to all,  
I remain as ever,

In haste

Waters -----

White House Landing  
Virginia, June 9th, 1862

Dear Em:

Your letter of the 2d was received and read with pleasure. The Northern News Writers seem to know all and more than happens to this army. Mrs. Gen. Lee instead of being here is about 16 miles up the main Road to Richmond at the House of a man by the name of Jean at which place she was overtaken by our troops and is still under guard at that place. She is a regular She Bear on the Sesesh question although she makes great pretensions to high breeding & c.

It is a shame after Gen. Casey's men being cut up and fairly driven back by five times their own numbers to accuse them of not standing fire, when nearly every officer was killed & wounded too. The 93d is in a flourishing state Gloriously serving their country doing guard duty. But we may soon have all the other kind of duty they want in a very few days.

I sent the other day an engraving to you & Kill it was one I borrowed from the White House. Almost everything has been carried off since I left, and now no one is permitted to go through the place without a pass from Col. Ingalls who is in command of the place. I have a pass at all times myself and should not be surprised if I was sent back to take charge of the House again. When I was there everyone could go through and I never lost anything. and gave satisfaction to all at any rate one man in writing to the evening post dated New York June 3d said I would not let a lady pick a flower. She must have been neither young nor good looking or I would certainly have given her that privelege.

Yesterday I had Thomas Helmes & Phil Ackley to take tea with me. They have gone up to the battle field tonight and I expect them back again in the morning. Tom was rather surprised to see me.

I was up to the battle field the other night but had to run away for the purpose I think it was Friday night. I did not see much of the old battle field but saw a little skirmish with the pickets. I saw a good many dead bodies not yet buried and in an awful state of decomposition, giving forth a very healthy smell, but dead men are not half so bad as wounded.

There was not a single man from the 93d Regt. in the Fight and if I had been there and in Casey's Div. I should not fear being twitted of running, as everything appears & shows that they fought well (but were not supported) against fearful odds. The only man in the 93d that was wounded cut two of his toes off with an ax - at the Head Qtrs. of the army.

I have recd. all letters & Papers I think.

Enclosed I send a South Carolina button given me by a

wounded rebel who was in the fight in which our division so roughly handled. I will send you a book from the White House so Lib can't brag over you any more. I have got some other buttons & a Sesesh Belt & Revolver for Kill - which I will send one of these days but am in hopes to have something more to send.

I guess I will have my picture taken here so you can see what kind of a looking chap I am now. I am sure I have grown some since I left Troy.

Give my love & respects to the young ladies next door who were so kind as to remember me. & especially to Miss Christie when she arrives I wish I could be there for a few nights we would beat you all to pieces the same way that we did the last night we played when she was there before. Tell her if the 93d had remained a few days longer at Rikers Island I should have called on her at Staten Island.

Give my love to all the Folks (especially to Em since she feels so bad because I perhaps happened to write in a hurry) over home and in the country when any of you write.

I wrote to Uncle Waters yesterday, enclosing \$80.00 and I wish he would send me that note. I forgot to ask him to do so but I suppose he would anyway.

With much love to yourself and Kill and the little Kills,  
I remain as ever,

Your affec. cousin

Waters

White House Landing, Va.  
June 16th, 1862

Dear Libbie:

Your long and welcome letter of the 12th came last evening. You say you have written three letters since you have received one from me. If you have, I have never received them and have answered every one and have also written to Uncle Waters two or three times since receiving any from home. I am sorry to hear Uncle has been sick and hope he is and will be better.

As you doubtless know from the papers, we came very near being attacked at this place by a Guerrilla Party of Rebel Cav. We certainly expected a brush with them but were disappointed this time but it is certain they are lurking about in small parties all ready to join each other at the first call and pounce upon any party they think they can master and murder on the other side of the river there are also farmers who to your face are strong for the union and whose property the government is protecting at an immense cost who are giving information and I believe the most of them were personally in that affair on Friday afternoon and night.

Yesterday I went up the River with three men who we had left as guard up to a widow's to get their things and if necessary leave them there again and also Lieut. Bradford of Company E took up six men to see if he could find anything of one of their men who as on guard up at the mill when the boats were burned but we hunted all around and even dug up a man that had been killed to see if it was him but no man could we find and so we proposed going over the River to see if he or some others were in the swamp as a lot of the teamsters swam the River when they were attacked. As the steam boat was not ready to go one man and myself took the small boat and started across and went through the swamp but found no one and came out into a big wheat field and while we were there the rest of the party came across and started up the Road but the Captain of the boat signalled them that they were in danger and they went back and got on board double quick and put out into the middle of the stream. I did not hear any signals and was quite surprised when I got down to shore to find the boat off and all watching for us. The Capt. of the Boat says he saw 25 or 30 Rebel Horsement skulking around the edge of the Wheat field but I did not see anything of them and think they were only negros.

Capt. Barnes and about sixty men went on an expedition over the River about midnight last night not with our company however, and as I had been on all of the expeditions I had to stay and let Milo go. And we may have work enough here and some one had to stay to take charge of the Company.

I am in perfect health and enjoying myself, as I am in the good Graces of all the military men here who have any authority. I wish Kill and Em & you could come down here it is only about 12 or 14 hours ride by boat from Washington and there are lots of visitors and you could see more on the way and here

than you will ever see in a lifetime in Troy and would be perfectly safe although in hearing of the cannons roar if there should happen to be a brush. I really do wish you would come and would like better to have Uncle Waters & Aunt Hannah come too. You could only stay over one night or so with any comfort but it would repay the journey of a month. Try and persuade Kill to come anyway, and I will get him a pass to go anywhere in the limits of the army. Cousin Julia, Julia, Frank & Ida were here a day or two ago and Mrs. Qtr. Master McArthur. I entertained them at my tent and spent the most of the day escorting them around and I just think I can do that here as I have a pass for myself & friends to go anywhere this side of Richmond.

Cousin Julia had not heard of Mary Dorlonson-Mary Bonticou's marriage and don't seem to have heard from Troy at all lately. She talked me almost to death and asked about a thousand questions about you all, but I don't think she got much the best of me. Julia Frank cut quite a dash with a Major of the 16th Mass.

I would like to be home about a week to tell you about all the expeditions we are on every day and of every kind which it would be impossible to write about as there is something new every day.

There is possibility but no probability of the Battle of Richmond coming off under a couple of weeks, and it may be in 24 hours. There are lots of troops here landing for McClellan every day and Siege guns without number. The 93d still continues in the same state except that they do not belong to any Brigade and when any of you write don't put on anything but the Regt. itself but direct to Washington as before and then if we leave here it will come all right.

I have only received two letters from Lydia instead of three and shall answer the last today. I have not seen anything of Wm. but I think he will look out for himself.

Give my love to Em & Kill and Call & Job & Uncle and Aunt, Abbie and all friends of the family and all who enquire after me but not to any one in particular. Hoping I won't have to wait over a week again to hear from some of you, I remain as ever your affec. cousin

Waters

White House, Va.  
June 22d, 1862

Dear Uncle:

Your last letter came so long ago I am almost ashamed to answer it but you must excuse me this time and I am sure you would if you were here. For since a day or two since I received it I have been on duty every day - and almost every day have been over the river on some expedition and for the past week I do not believe I have averaged three hours sleep any night. We are very busy and our force here is so small that it keeps us continually on duty or on the watch for Guerrilla Parties, who no doubt are hovering around and knowing the entire country about here, and the vital importance of this place to our army they are continually on the watch for a chance to pounce upon us. Still we are not much alarmed about them and everything goes on as if there never was one living except that our cav. patrols are continually scouring the country in quest of them.

The Northern Papers have great ideas about what happens to the army and get all such affairs as the Guerrilla Dash very much exaggerated on one side or the other about the destruction of Property - the other night they got that altogether too high and the damage aside from the Scare was not even felt here amid the rush and immensity of the Operations connected with the army. June 23d.-- I began to write yesterday but I have done the same two or three times and had to stop writing to go on a little trip up the Rail Road.

About that bill of Messrs R. & L. I wish you would pay it as soon as possible for I had supposed it paid out of the money first sent home and am sorry it was not.

Our Regt. is not very likely to leave just now as the force here is now too small to afford much protection in case of being attacked by a large force, but we will try it if they try the experiment also. Our Regt. is now unattached to any Brigade or Division but constitute in themselves the Army of the Pamunkey.

This place is getting to be quite a city. I have charge of the sutlers and have them all on one street & make them pay \$5.00 for a license to sell their goods. At this place the money is appropriated to grading the streets & c. Col. Butler & myself have a big tent down on the Levee, where all business is transacted & the Col. furnishes me a horse to ride and in fact we could not get around fast enough without them, so you see that although busy from daylight till 12 or 1 O.C. I am having a good time and enjoying myself as well as possible.

I had a letter from Libbie & one from Kill night before last and will try and answer them & write one to Aunt Hannah as soon as possible. I wish Kill and some of the girls could come down for a few days, and see the country. They will never have a better chance, and I wish you would come too. I am sorry to hear the Mr. Kerr is having so serious a time but hope he will soon be around again. It must be awful tiresome for him staying in the house.

You need not flatter yourself about being no danger at White House but I think I can take care of myself as well as any of our men and if it comes our lot to meet the enemy here I think & trust we shall be ready & willing to meet them any day or night they see fit to give us a call.

I have seen nothing of William and hear that his regt. has not over 200 effective men in it.

I may go to N. Y. city in a few days but if I do it will only be to go there and back and no chance to come to Troy.

With love to all I remain as ever your affec.  
Nephew,

In haste

Waters W. Braman



Head Quarters Gen. Casey  
White House, Va., June 27/62  
Office of Provost Guard

Dear Kill:

Your letter arrived in due time, but I have been so busy have delayed answering. I am at present acting as Q Master for Gen. Casey & officer in command of Provost Guard and am hurried every moment - have tried to write to you two or three times but have hardly got started before some business stoped me -- you must not think that I meant to write before, nor must Libbie. I shall write to her and to you a good long letter as the next few days will decide our fate at this place we are in a very uncertain fix just at this moment and even before this is finished we may be ordered to leave this place. as it is reported that Gen. S. Jackson of the Rebel Army is within a few miles of this place intending to destroy the Gov. property but he will find nothing in that line, and only a small force to oppose him, but we will try. We have been in this uncertain state for the past two weeks, but you need not show this to the folks, unless you see fit, as it might cause them uneasiness on my account, but you may be sure I shall take as good care of myself as possible.

Those things, I will send by Express if we don't leave here and if we do I may get more of them. I should have done so but if I had not time to write home I certainly would not to make a box to send them in. All the stores at this place are loaded on vessels except such as are being loaded on cars and are ready to be sent down the river at a moments warning.

Trusting to write to and hear soon from you with love to Em and all the folks, I remain as ever

In haste,

Waters W. Braman

Fortress Monroe, Va.  
June 30th, 1862

Dear Aunt:

Hearing you were unwell and had gone to Union Village to Recruit I thought I would write to you there and I hope ere this reaches you you will be all well and stay so.

This letter is written on Rebel Paper, also the envelope. It was captured at the battle of Fair Oaks by one of Gen. Casey's clerks and you must keep it to remember me and the War, and it must also be a great curiosity up north. As you see we have left White House and are probably going up the James River but I have written all the particulars to Uncle and as he will send you the letter it will be unnecessary for me to state them again.

I have been so busy to work that it is almost impossible for me to do more than think of the folks at home but I don't forget you or any of my friends.

Enclosed I also send my picture. I intended to have some more taken but the day I got this one the man said it was a bad day and we left before I got another chance and I send it to you for if I should send it to either Em or Lib I should get a letter or two about it immediately. I never thought of sending anything to one more than another much less than to having any one brag over another and I suppose all letters are for the benefit of all whom it may concern.

As I am acting in three or four different capacities I must close this for want of more time and Hoping when I hear again from you again you will be well, and with love to Cal & Job & Lye & Joe and all the young ladies of U. V. and all the folks at home and friends of the family, I remain as ever,

Your aff. Nephew,

Waters

Fortress Monroe, June 30th/62

Dear Uncle:

As you can see we have left the White House for good. Your letter I recd. in time also one from Em last night. We left White House day before yesterday at 5 O.C. P.M. We had orders to be ready to do so for over a week before we left everything of consequence was brought away, and here we are expecting to leave this morning for up the James River but perhaps we may stay here a day or two if so I will write again tomorrow to Libbie. Every boat & every bit of government property was either brought away or destroyed. I set fire to the wharf from which the Knickerbocker started (the last boat) and was the last man on shore.

Why we left, the Head Gens. only know, and as it was orders I hope it is for the best. We shall probably land just below Fort Darling if we go up the James River.

It is reported in the Fort that Gen. McClellan by falling back on the right and concentrating his forces on the left & center has taken the city of Richmond. That was undoubtedly the program and I hope it is true. It was stated by our Cavalry patrols when we left the White House that the Rebel Gen. Jackson was within three miles of that place. If so he is caught in a trap that will bother him some if as we expect the Rebel Capitol is defunct.

For the last week I have been detached from the 93d and am still acting Asst. Q. M. for Gen. Casey & Commandant of Provost Guard and although the two weeks before I could hardly find time to write, yet for the last week I have been more busy than ever. I have for Provost Guard beside myself, 1 Lieut. & 53 Infantry & 14 Cavalry which are detached from their Regts. and under my own control & all picked men and we were having splendid times at White House. We were encamped in the grounds of the White House itself and it would do any one good to see the encampment as I got all nice new tents and the Gen. said they & the men looked like Regulars. Although the men are from different Regts. they all say they hope they can always stay with me. I had the privilege of picking them all out myself. Since I have got to be A.A.Q.M. I can afford a horse to ride especially as Uncle Sam furnishes it.

We had the provost guard deployed as skirmishers in the woods before the Boat got ready to start and expected to have a brush with Jackson although the orders were to let him come down as far as possible. But nary Reb. did we see although our cavalry Patrol reported their advance to be very near. I almost wish we had been lucky enough to have a little brush with them as I am proud of the Provost Gd. and would like to see them tried.

Everything on the right of our army went over the Chickahominy two or three days ago and although we kept sending provisions forward night & day perhaps our army before Richmond may get out of Hardees before we can send up the James River. All the Troops had also gone over the River except the Guards at White House & Tunstalls Station all of which and no others except the sick in hospital came away with us. Genl. McClellan took the other four companies of our Regt. with him.

Enclosed I send a Sesesh furlough taken from a man who I arrested as a spy it is the original thing and no humbug.

I am sorry to hear Aunt Hannah is sick and I hope her trip to U. V. will do her good.

With love to all, Em & c I remain as ever,  
your affect. Nephew,

Waters W. Braman

P.S. Tell Kill he need not come to see me at White House but should be happy to see him up the James River or in Richmond.

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

Dear Libbie:

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

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

Your affec. Cousin

Waters

Harrisons Landing  
Virginia, July 8th, 1862

Dear Em:

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

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

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

Your affec. Coz,

Waters

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

W.

Harrisons Landing, Virginia  
July 10th, 1862

Dear Uncle & Cousin:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Your affectionate Nephew

Waters W. Braman

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

As ever,

Waters



Harrisons Landing, Va.  
July 13th, 1862

Dear Libbie:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Waters,

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

W.

Harrisons Landing  
Virginia, July 23d, 1862

Dear Uncle:

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

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

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

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

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

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

Your affectionate Nephew,

Waters W. Braman

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

W--

Harrisons Landing, Virginia  
July 27th, 1862

Dear Abbie & Libbie:

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

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

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

There is nothing new or startling going on here

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

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

Your affec. Coz,

Waters

Harrisons Landing, Va.  
July 31st, 1862

Dear Em:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Waters

Harrisons Landing, Virginia  
August 1st, 1862

Dear Uncle:

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

I am as ever, your affec. Nephew,

Waters W. Braman

Harrisons Landing, Virginia  
August 2d, 1862

Dear Uncle:

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

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

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

Your aff, Nephew

Waters W. Braman

Enclosed I also send rect. of Express Co.

Waters

Harrisons Landing, Virginia  
August 6th, 1862

Dear Abbie:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Your aff. Coz,

Waters

Harrisons Landing, Virginia  
August 11th, 1862

Dear Libbie:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Your aff. Cousin

Waters

Hampton, Virginia  
August 19th, 1862

Dear Cousin Abbie:

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

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

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

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

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

Your aff. Coz,

Waters

Hampton, Va., Augt. 24th, 1862

Dearest Em:

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

Write often and believe me as ever,

Your aff Cousin

Waters W. Braman

Hampton, Virginia, August 28th, 1862

Dear Uncle:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Your aff. Nephew

Waters . Braman

Steamer Nantasket, Potomac River  
Sept. 3d, 1862

Dear Uncle:

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

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

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

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

And believe me till death,

Your affec. Nephew

Waters W. Braman

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

Dear Uncle:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Your aff. Nephew,

Waters W. Braman

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

Dear Em & Kill:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Your aff. Cousin

Waters

"Em & Kill Rousseau"



Battlefield near Boonsborough  
Sept. 16th, 1862

Dear Uncle & Aunt:

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

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

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

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

In haste with love to all.

As ever,

Waters

I will write tomorrow.

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

Dear Uncle:

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

Friday morning, Sept. 19th, 1862

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

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

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

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

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

Your aff. Nephew,

Waters W. Braman

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

Waters

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

Dear Libbie:

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

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

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

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

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

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

with much love

Waters.

Will write to Abbie tomorrow.

W.

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

Dear Cousin Abbie:

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

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

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

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

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

I remain as ever,

Your aff. Cousin

Waters.

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

Waters.



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

My dear Aunt:

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

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

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

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

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

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

I remain as ever,

Waters.

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

My Dear Em:

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

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

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

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



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

Dear Libbie:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

In haste

Waters

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

W.

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

Dear Uncle:

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

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

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

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

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

Your aff. Nephew,

Waters W. Braman



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

October 24th, 1862

Dear Uncle:

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

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

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

Your aff. Nephew

Waters W. Braman

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

Dear Cousin Abbie:

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

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

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

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

Waters

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

Dear Uncle:

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

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

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

With love to all I remain as ever,

Your aff. Nephew,

Waters W. Braman

Camp near Berlin, Md.  
October 31st, 1862

Dear Libbie:

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

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

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

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

Your aff. cousin

Waters

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

Dear Libbie:

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

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

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

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

Your aff. cousin

Waters

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

Officers & Soldiers of the  
Army of the Potomac

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

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

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

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

My dear Em:

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

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

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

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



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

Your aff. coz

Waters

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

W

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

My dear Uncle:

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

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

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

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

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

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

Your affectionate Nephew,

Waters W. Braman

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

Dear Uncle:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Believe me as ever,

Your aff. Nephew,

Waters W. Braman

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

Dear Libbie:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

As ever,

Waters.

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

My dear Emma:

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

Your aff. cousin,

Waters.

To Em.

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

Dear Uncle:

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

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

As ever,

Waters

In haste.

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

Dear Cousin Abbie:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Waters.

To Abbie:

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

W.

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

Dear Cousin Libbie:

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

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

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

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

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

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

In haste,

Waters

9 o.c.p.m.

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

Dear Uncle:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

In haste,

Your aff. Nephew,

Waters W. Braman



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

Dear Uncle;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Your Aff. Nephew,

Waters W. Braman.

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

Cousin Libbie;

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

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

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

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

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

Your Affe. Cousin,  
Waters.

To Libbie.  
P.S.

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

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

My dear Cousin Libbie;

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

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

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

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

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

You must have heard of the contemplated move here. There

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

With Love &c I remain as ever,

Waters.

P.S.

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

Waters.

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

W-

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

W-

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

Dear Uncle;

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

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

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

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

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

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

me as ever,

Affect. Your Unmarried Nephew,

Waters W. Braman.

PS.

We shall get our pay again within a fortnight.

W,-

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

Waters.

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

Dear Uncle;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

With Love to All,

In haste,

Waters.

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

Dear Cousins Abbie & Carrie;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

With Love,

Your Affec. Cousin,

Waters.

To Cousins Carrie & Abbie.

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

Dear Cousin Libbie;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

In haste

Your Aff. Cousin

Waters.

To Libbie

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

Dear Uncle;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Waters

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

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

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

My Dear Em;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Your Aff Cousin,

Waters

To Em



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

Friend Kill;

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

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

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

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

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

I hear occasionally from Bob Getty. What a Bob!

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

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

Write soon and believe me as ever,

Waters.

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

Dear Cousin Libbie;

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

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

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

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

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

Waters

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

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

With much love.

146 Waters.

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

Dear Libbie

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

In haste,

Waters.

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

Dear Aunt

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

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

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

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

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

Your aff. Nephew,

Waters

To Aunt Hannah

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

Dear Abbie

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Yours Aff Cousin,

Waters

To Cousin Abbie

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

Dear Uncle,

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

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

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

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

Your Aff Nephew

Waters W. Braman

P. S.

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

Yours,

Waters

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

Dear Uncle,

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

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

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

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

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

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

Your affectionate nephew,

Waters.

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

W -



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

Dear Libbie

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Your Aff. Cousin

Water

To Lib

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

Dear Cousin Abbie,

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

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

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

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

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

Your Aff Cousin

Waters

To Cousin Abbie

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

Dear Em,

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

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

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

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

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

Your Aff. Cousin

Waters

To Em

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

Dear Uncle,

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

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

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

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

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

Your Aff. Nephew

Waters W. Braman

To Uncle Waters

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

Dear Lib,

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

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

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

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

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

Your aff. cousin

To Libbie

Waters

Write soon, I keep doing so --

W

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

Friend Maggie,

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

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

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

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

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

Your Friend,

Waters W. Braman

To Miss Maggie Getty

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

J.L.B.

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

Dear Cousin Libbie,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Your aff. cousin,

Waters

To Libbie



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

Dear Uncle,

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

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

Your aff. Nephew

Waters W. Braman

To Uncle Waters

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

My Dear Em,

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

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

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

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

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

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

Your Aff. Cousin

Waters

To Emma

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

Dear Lib -

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

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

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

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

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

Your aff. cousin

Waters

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

W -

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

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

Dear Aunt,

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

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

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

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

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

Your Aff. Nephew

Waters

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

Dear Cousin Libbie,

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

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

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

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

Your aff. cousin,

Waters

To Cousin Libbie

Camp Near Falmouth Va.  
Thursday April 23rd 1863

My dear Uncle,

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

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

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

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

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

Your Aff. Nephew

Waters

Enclosed

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

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

& oblige,

W -

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

Dear Em

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

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

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

There has been but very little cannon firing.

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

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

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

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

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

As ever

Your aff. cousin,

Waters

To Em

9 P. M.

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

Dear Libbie:

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

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

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

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

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

With love to all I am as ever

Waters

To Cousin Libbie

P. S.

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

W

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

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



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

Dear A. J.

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

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

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

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

Yours Truly

Waters

To Kill

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

Dear Lib,

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

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

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

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

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

Your aff. cousin

Waters

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

Dear Cousin Abbie,

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

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

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

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

Your aff. cousin

Waters

To Cousin Abbie

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

My Dear Em,

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

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

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

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

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

Your Cousin  
Waters

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

W —

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

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

Dear Lib,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Your aff. Cousin

Waters

To Libbie

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

Dear Uncle,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Your Aff. Nephew,

W. W. Braman

To Uncle Waters  
Troy

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

Dear Uncle,

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

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

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

Your aff Nephew

Waters W. Braman

To Uncle Waters

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

Waters

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

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

Dear Lib:

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

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

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

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

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

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

Your aff. Cousin,

WATERS.

TO LIB.

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

W.

Remember me to all the young folks.

W.

C O P Y



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

Dear Cousin Abbie,

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

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

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

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

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

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

Your aff. Cousin

Waters

(In haste)

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

Dear Lib,

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

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

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

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

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

Your aff coz.

Waters

To Lib

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

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

Dear Uncle,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Your aff. Nephew,

Waters

(In haste)

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

Dear Lib,

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

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

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

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

Your aff Cousin

Waters

To Libbie

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

W --

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

Friend Kill,

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

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

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

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

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

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

Letter of June 30th 1863

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

I remain as ever

Waters

To A J Rousseau Esq.

Camp of 93rd N. Y. V.  
Near Gettysburg P.a.  
July 5th 1863

Dear Uncle,

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

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

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

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

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

W --

Letter of July 5th 1863

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

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

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

Your Aff. Nephew

Waters



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

Dear Cousin Libbie,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Letter of July 14th 1863

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

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

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

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

Your aff. Cousin

Waters

To Cousin Libbie

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

Dear Cousin Abbie,

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

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

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

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

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

Affectionately

Your cousin

Waters

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

Dear Uncle

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

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

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

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

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

Letter of July 27th 1863

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

Your Affectionate Nephew

Waters W. Braman

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

Dear Cousin Lib,

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

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

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

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

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

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

Affectionately

Your coz.

To Lib

Waters

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

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

Dear Em,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Affectionately, Your coz.

Waters

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

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

My Dear Uncle,

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

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

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

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

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

Your Aff. Nephew

Waters W. Braman

In haste.

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



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

Dear Cousin Abbie,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Your aff. Cousin

Waters

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

Dear Lib,

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

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

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

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

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

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

Your Aff. Cousin

Waters

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

Dear Cousin Abbie,

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

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

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

Letter of Aug 29th 1863

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

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

Your Aff. Cousin

Waters

P. S.

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

W

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

My Dear Em,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Your Aff. Cousin

Waters

To Em

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

Dear Libbie,

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

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

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

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

Your Aff. Cousin

Waters

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

W --

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

My Dear Uncle,

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

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

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

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

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

Gratefully

Your Aff Nephew

Waters W. Braman

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

Yours Truly

W --

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

Dear Em,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Your Aff. cousin

Waters



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

Dear Cousin Lib,

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

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

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

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

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

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

Letter of Sep 17 1863

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

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

Your affectionate,

Cousin Waters

To Cousin Lib

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

Dear Uncle,

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

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

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

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

Letter of Sept 21st 1863

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

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

Your Affectionate Nephew

Waters W. Braman.

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

Dear Cousin Em,

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

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

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

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

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

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

Your Aff. Cousin

Waters

To Cousin Em

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

Dear Cousins Abbie & Libbie,

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

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

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

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

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

Your aff coz.

Waters

To Cousins Abbie & Libbie

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

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

Dear Aunt & Uncle,

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

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

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

Waters

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

Dear Coz Em,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Your aff. coz.

Waters



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

Dear Coz Libbie

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

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

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

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

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

Letter of Octo 22nd 1863

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

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

Your aff coz.

Waters

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

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

My Dear Uncle,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Your aff Nephew

Waters W. Braman

To Uncle Waters

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

W.

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

Dear Cousin Libbie,

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

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

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

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

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

Letter of Novem 5th 1863

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

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

Your aff. cousin

Waters

To Cousin Libbie

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

My Dear Coz Em,

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

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

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

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

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

Give my love to all the family, my respects to all of Kill's family and kind remembrances to all the fair sex, next door, and elsewhere. Hoping to be with you one day, soon, on furlough, I remain with a thousand good wishes for yourself & Kill, as ever,

Your aff. coz

Waters

Camp of 93rd N. Y. Vols.  
Near Brandy Station V.a.  
Novem 10th 1863

My Dear Uncle,

Your Kind letter of the 6th Inst, I have just received, I was just about writing to you last night, after we got to this camp, but Ems last letter came, and so I answered it immediately. When we came here last night, we were sent out to clear up a new camp, in the woods about a quarter of a mile from here, and have done so, and Hdqrs have moved there today, and we expect to move nearer in the morning. That looks as if we were going to remain here some days, at least untill the Rail Road is repaired, I am expecting to go to Washington tomorrow or next day, to bring up those Boots. We are expecting our pay in this camp, if I go to Washington shall probably get mine while there, if so will send probably \$150.00 from there. I was thinking some of writing to you to invest the money I had sent home, in the US -5-20 loan, as I think it is not only a good investment, but strengthens the hands of the government, which we are all bound to do, but I guess it is just as well, for when I come home (for good) there is no telling what I might want to do with it, and it will certainly be available where it is, and might not, in the other case. But I do think as a permanent investment it cant be beat. I mean by the time our Regiment is mustered out to have from 2300 to 2500 Dollars saved, and I think that will be doing pretty well, and I am sure there is not an officer in the regiment that dresses any better than I do, but I guess their whiskey bill is larger, and I have no doubt there are officers in the regiment that have not saved as much as it cost them recruiting, since they have been in the service.

We are to have a new commandant of the Post I think it is Col Butler, for he seems to feel pretty good to-night, I think the commanding officer of the regiment should be commandant, for he then could regulate details, and would save sending all orders through one persons hands.

We had a very little flurry of snow last night, but not to amount to anything, we could see the hills of the Blue Ridge last evening (about fifteen miles) all white, it has been pretty cold for the last four or five days, but not very unpleasant, nothing to what it was last year this time.

The Rebs had things all fixed up for winter, on this side of the River, log houses, brick chimneys, etc. but they were slightly mistaken that time. It does seem as if we had aught to push on, to Richmond if possible, but I suppose Genl Meade knows best. Soldiers must eat or they cant fight. The fight at Rappahannock crossing was short but mighty sharp. The Rail Road is not disturbed on this side of the River. The Opinion seems to be that we will wait untill the Road is repaired, and then push on with all our forces.

With love to Aunt, Abbie, Libbie, Em, Kill, Carrie, Job & Little Abbie, Lyd & Joe, & all the Washington Co friends, remember me to all Park Church and other friends in Troy. And the kindest wishes for your own health & prosperity I remain, as ever,

Your aff. Nephew

Waters W. Braman



Camp of 93rd N. Y. Vols.  
Near Brandy Station  
Nov 19th 1863

Dear Cousin Lib,

I found yours of the 12th awaiting my return from Washington, which event occurred last night. I brought on all the express and other goods belonging to the regiment. The boots from Wood, W & P. are very satisfactory indeed. Our paymaster came down to the army on Monday but has not as yet been to the regiment. I got my own pay in the city and sent \$125 to Uncle Waters by express. We are expecting the paymaster tomorrow and every day untill he gets around to us.

I met Mr. Phipps in Washington, and he seemed rather pleased than otherwise at the approaching marriage of Annie. I am glad too for she is doing so well. I met a young man on the cars yesterday that used to go to the Institute in 1859. I declare I have forgotten his name (good gossip am I not?) but he was Quarter Master of the 22nd Mass. He was acquainted with yourself and Abbie and I think I have seen him at the house at any rate he spoke of you all and inquired after all. You remember Mr. Hart. I took down a prisoner who said he was wounded and discharged from the rebel service, and was in the Commissary department in Richmond. The Prisoner was a former resident of Alexandria also. By the way how comes on our M. D. of Canadian notoriety, is he well etc?

I had a very pleasant time in Washington, considering the time I staid and the amount of business I had on hand. I put up at the Kirkwood but staid two nights with Mr Cooper and wife. I wonder if "Horace Jones" and his bride were not in Washington. I thought I saw him and a lady pass a store I was in, but thought no more of it untill I got your letter in camp. I think after a little I shall be able to get a pass for Uncle & Kill to come down to the army and should like to have them come and stay a week or so. I only wish they could visit us in Richmond. We have orders today for eleven days rations, perhaps it means move and perhaps it dont, but we are ready for what comes, and do not care. The Cars run through to Culpepper with supplies yesterday for the first, and I should not be surprised if we moved Hdqrs down there any day.

Col Crocker is not yet returned. Is it not strange how Major Cassidy remains so long away, his leg is said to be two inches shorter than before broken & we scarcely ever expect to see him in the field again.

I am well and hearty, as ever. Give my love to all the family and kind remembrances to all friends, and believe me to remain

Your aff cousin

Waters

To Cousin Libbie

Sunday Eve  
Camp of 93rd N. Y. Vols.  
Near Brandy Station V.a.  
Novem 22nd 1863

My Dear Em,

Again I find myself gratefully indebted to you, yours of the 19th inst is just received. And there being a prospect of an immediate move, I hasten to answer, fearing that on the march I should not have a chance to write, and letters accumulate mighty fast, enough so sometimes as to require double-headed ones to catch up, and I like to answer each in turn & to themselves individually. I do not see any prospect of that letter of Carries - "written the night before" interfering with my other correspondence, as I have not yet received it, but hope to.

As to Feminine Visitors, I deny having had the honor of a visit from Mrs. Mc-Drum, or a chance to display my gallantry to the tune of Three Dollars, for I have not seen the fair lady in question, - neither do I believe she has honored the Army of the Potomac by her presence. She may have been to visit Pat however, as the 2nd Cavalry is at the Dismounted Camp near Washington.

You have doubtless noticed in the Troy Times, of the Ordination of a Mr Crawford as a Presbyterian Minister, preparatory to his accepting an appointment as Chaplain of our regiment. Said appointment or prospect of one is a Humbug. We have been talking of having a Chaplain, but Mr. Crawford's name was never voted on as a candidate for the position, and in my opinion his connection ceased forever when he resigned his former commission. Our regiment was paid off to-day, for the months of September & October, and I wish Kill would go and see Mrss. Wood Willard & Prentice of Troy, and say to them that I have sent them by the same mail with this, a check on the Assistant Treasurer at N. Y. No. 148 of Major E. L. Moore, Paymaster U. S. A. for \$501.25/100 & Payable to their order, with the view to have the payment stopped in N. Y. should it not arrive in proper time.

We had a funeral yesterday of a man of Co. I the first death in the regiment in a year, should the coming year be as bloodless for the 93rd, I think I stand a pretty fair chance of coming home safe and sound.

I made quite a stay in the demoralized city of Washington, and had a very pleasant time, visited the Patent Office, Capital National Library, White House and all places of Notoriety. I had been through the Arsenall & Navy Yard before. Had I expected to stay as long as I did, I would have telegraphed to Uncle & Kill, and tried and got them down to the Army. I think I can by & by, if they will write me about the time it will be most convenient. I believe I saw Horace J. Richards in Washington but was not sure.

Remember me to all the fair ladies of my acquaintance, also to Bob Getty and his family. Give my respects to Margt, Helen, Lew & Bill, and Kills folks of my acquaintance. My love to all over home, and kindest wishes for yourself & Kill. Good bye untill my next or untill Geo. G. sees fit to grant that furlough to

Your aff cousin

Waters

Monday night 7 oc.  
Camp of 93rd N. Y. Vols.  
Near Brandy Station V.a.  
Novem 23rd 1863

Dear Uncle,

We march at daylight for, No one Knows where, some say to the James River, but certain we start, and today have sent away everything in the shape of trunks, office tents, and everything which could be dispensed with for ten days, and we were ordered to have eleven days rations, but where we go we know not. There has been the most extensive preparations made this time for a long move, that I have seen since being at Hdqrs and if you do not hear from me for a week to come you need not be at all surprised, but I will write if occasion offers, I wrote to Em yesterday, and should not have written now but for the coming move, and a poor prospect for receiving or sending letters for some days.

My promotion to the rank of Captain was sent forward to the Governor, to-day, and if nothing happens shall expect to hear from it in a week or so, but you know that such things are mighty uncertain. At all events, I will write you as soon as I hear anything from Albany, for I know you feel an interest in all that concerns me. You know that Major Cassidy has been away for about six months with a broken leg, and there being no prospect of his so far recovering as to retake the field, he has been mustered out of the service. Capt Barnes is nominated to the Governor as Major in place of Major C - Capt McC - is working for it also, and of course can bring a strong influence to bear on Gov Seymour, but Cap Barnes name is now sent forward, and I think and hope he will get it. I think in either case I shall be made Captain, but I would prefer Co. C. to Co. K.

I wrote Em in regard to our being paid off etc. I shall not send any more money home this pay day, as it falls to my lot to run the mess for the coming two months, and I may get a furlough at any moment.

With Love to all the Family, & kind wishes for all friends, I am forever,

Your aff Nephew

Waters W. Braman

P. S. Dont go and direct any letters to me as Captain, untill I write something definite, and I should prefer that you keep the contents of this letter to yourself alone.

Waters

P. S. 2nd 10 O. C. P. M.

I see Wm every day or two he is encamped near us, he looks & feels well. I saw two deserters from the 2nd Division 6th Corps, Branded with a D in their right hand, today, for Deserters, I tell you it looked pretty hard, before a whole division, but it has to be done, there are to be some executiong for the same cause on Friday.

We are off at six in the morning, in haste.

Waters

Camp of 93rd N. Y. Vols.  
Near Brandy Station V.a.  
December 4th 1863

Dear Cousin Libbie,

Yours of the 26th ult I received yesterday morning. We returned to the old camp about daylight after marching all night, about 21 miles. You better believe we were all pretty tired after such a march through the mud and in the dark. We were away just a week to a minute, from the time we "struck camp" untill we march in again, of course we were without mail on the campaign, and I found a letter from Kill, and one from Mary, besides yours, on our return.

We had a very lively time across the Rapidan. We never staid over one night in one camp and only by accident that we took over one meal in a place, we were so continually on the move, and if we did put tents to sleep in, we took them down at daylight, in fact during daylight there was continued fighting, and all of it skirmishing, no general engagement at all. We were ordered across the river by the authorities at Washington, and ordered back again by the same. I hope the move helped our armies otherwheres, but I am sure it did us no good, for it is said that General Meade wanted very much to fight a general engagement, but was denied the priviledge of fighting it, by higher authority, it is the general opinion here that we could have whipped Lees army, and that we had at least twenty-thousand more than he did untill the day before we came back. Oh! well, if we did any good we are satisfied, but what with the rain, mud and cold wind, we had a little the most serious time we ever had, and it is a miracle to me (and I have seen some hard roads in the army) how all our trains got through as they did.

All our baggage that was sent back to Alexandria has returned, we are in the very same camp and are fixed even nicer than before. Hdqrs are having sidewalks built, look out for furloughs!

We have a new Major, McConihe, late Captain of "K" Co, he got the appointment through Major Cassidy's and his friends influence with the Governor, in spite of the recommendation of the Col for Capt Barnes to be appointed. I do not know how the appointment for the next Captaincy will go, I was recommended by the Colonel at the same time of the Captain being recommended for the Majority. And again today but I fear that the Rum clique are working against me, and that Lt Fitch will get it. I have written to Uncle Waters on the subject tonight.

Love to Uncle, Aunt, Em, Kill, Abbie and all, and the same to yourself, and hoping soon to visit you all, I remain.

Your aff. cousin

Waters

Camp of 93rd N. Y. Vol. Infantry  
Near Brandy Station V.a.  
Sunday December 6th 1863

Dear Friend Kill,

Yours of the 25th ult were received in company with a number of others, on our return from the last campaign of the Grand Army of the Potomac. You never was more mistaken in your life than in supposing that we had any kind of a celebration here on Thanksgiving day, if we did I think the authorities were mistaken in the day, for we had Fire-Works like July ye-fourth only more so. The Turkies & Chickens we had next day on the south side of the Rapidan. I reckon our regiment took, at least one hundred of the feathered gentry, into the union, and no end of Sheep and hogs. In Southern parlance "I reckon the Yankees toted off a right smart of Turkies, Geese, and other garden-sass".

I am sorry I did not write to you in time before I went to Washington the last time, for I do not know when I shall go there again unless it is on my way north on furlough. And the last time I had an unlimited pass, being detailed on business from Hdqrs to return when that business was finished. If you should come to the National Capital, dont fail to bring your Check Book, for no "harness" that you have got affords pockets enough to hold the money that can be spent in that city in a short campaign of a week or so.

We have a new Major Saml McConihe, he will undoubtedly make a good one, but I fear that in engineering him in, they have engineered me out, although they all claim that it was not so intended, and that if I get Euchred it will be by some act of Col Crockers who is up there, not yet having returned from Rikers Island.

There is some talk of a move about Tuesday or Wednesday. It is said that we accomplished all that was intended on the other move by preventing Lee from sending any of his force away to the relief of Bragg or Longstreet, but what the intention of this one is remains a mystery, some say that we are going into Winter Quarters, on the other side of the Rappahannock, if so I am in for my ten days ride on the cars, to Troy & return.

I do not hear a word from Bob G. lately, and fear that should I succede in getting a furlough, that I shall not visit him as long in New York as last year, that visit created a world of talk too.

I am rejoyced to hear of the succesfull close of a good years business for the firm, and trust that other years may bring like results.

Remember me to all your family and my friends. Give my love to all the family and good health and prosperity for yourself and Em, will ever be the wish of

Yours Truly

Waters W. Braman

Camp of 93rd N. Y. Vols.  
Near Brandy Sta V.a.  
Dec 13th 1863

Dear Cousin Abbie,

Yours of the 5th was received two or three days ago, but I have been so busy that I have failed to answer it. The reason why I have been so busy is that, orders from the War Department have been issued allowing the men, on condition of their re-inlisting for three years more, a furlough of thirty days. And I was appointed "Recruiting officer for the 93rd" and have been busy making out the papers. I think most of the companies will re-enlist, in which case they will come to Albany to re-organize and re-cruit and will probably be at home two months or more. If the companies do so re-enlist the officers are re-tained. I do not know for certain as Co C will, if they do I shall be at home in less than two weeks to stay at least a month and probably two. And if they do not, I expect to get a "leave of absence" for fifteen days about Christmas. It does not make the least differance with the officers, they are not required to muster in again, and I suppose on the expiration of their present term can leave the service. So there will be time enough to see if I am to be a Veteran for more than the year to come, I will bring all the orders home with me, so you can all see them.

In regard to the Captaincy, there is no chance for me this time, for Lt Fitch not "Smith" has received notification of his appointment. It was all done by Col Crocker, notwithstanding his assurance to me at a dozen different times, and I dont care either, although rank is everything in the service. I have learned since that Capt McConihe and those who figured him into the Majority, thought I was certain of the place of Capt for Maj McConihe says that if he had thought Fitch would have got it he would have tryed and got his 1st Lt appointed. But Capt Wilson who is Lt Fitch's Capt is up there with Col Crocker and persuaded him to appoint Fitch. I should not be at all surpsised if Col Crocker lost his position, in the Veteran reorganization for the majority of the officers are very much down on him.

That was all a humbug about a car being hurt by Mosby, belonging to Hdqrs and no officers from here or the 93rd were captured. In regard to the wonderfull adventure of Adjut Gifford, the general opinion is that the squad ran away so fast that they did not know what the party they supposed to be rebs were. And it amounted to just nothing at all. The 93rd lost but one man while over the River (Hickey of Co I) supposed to be captured, while carrying a dispatch.

I have received Ems, Kills & Libs letters but none in answer to the ones I wrote immediatly after coming back to camp. Give my love to all the family, dont be surprised to see me any time after a week from now, untill I come.

I wish Lib would buy a nice little dress or something (or a full rig) for each of Lyds children, something nice that you both think appropriate, for Christmas, and if I am not there send it to her in my name get the money from Uncle Waters. With love to yourself and all, and kind remembrances to all the young folks who have been kind enough to enquire after me and excuse the haste of

Waters

Camp of 93rd N. Y. Vols.  
Near Brandy Station V.a.  
Dec 22nd 1863

Dear Uncle,

Your last from Wabash, was received day before yesterday. I was glad to learn of the succesfull termination of Ephs seasons business. And in regard to my coming home from the Army for good, I am very much obliged for your kind offers and suggestions, and we will talk about that, when I come home this winter, but I think I shall have to stay in the Army just about a year. If my own wishes were consulted I would come home immediatly, and settle down for good, but I do not see how I could do it honorably just as things stand at present. Because I want to stay long enough to see some things right that are far from it just now. Capt Barnes Resigned yesterday and it will undoubtedly be accepted, which will promote me, and that will make two or three in the company among boys who have always stood by me, and they have re-enlisted in the Veteran Corps, and untill I can see them fixed all right, for although Capt B. is a very nice man he has a good many relations in the company and they have had to be first served. And after that is done I can come home contented to remain. But I am in hopes this war will be ended in the coming year, and I would like to see it. But as I think now, I shall not remain longer than that. You cannot appreciate the motives which move a man in the Army. One thing is I dont feel like coming home in the same rank as I came out. Who is to blame I know, and so do others in this regiment. Some that will see John S - leave the service dishonorably, before they leave it.

Col Crocker returned to the Regiment to-day, he says that our Regiment is to have the first Recruits or Conscripts from Rikers Island to the number of four hundred & seventy. I suppose the Col will recommend me for the Captaincy, and I can also get a recommend signed by every other officer in the Regiment, so I think there is no doubt of it. The Veterans of Our Regiment are expecting to start day after tomorrow for home, they are to be paid their old and advanced Bounty to-morrow. I am some expecting to come home in charge of the squad from Co 'C'. The other five Cos. go home as complete cos. but we shall leave about as many behind as will go, of the Company. So you see when the company is broken up next fall it will be easier getting out of the service than now. I have thought a great deal about your letter and the advice it contained and I do think it would be for my interest to take that advice and act on it to the very letter. But I do think it best to stay for the present for I might be drafted if I came home, and I should not be surprised if there is a second draft if no substitutes were allowed. At all events I shant say I will or wont, untill I see you. And you aught to know what weight your advice should have with me.

If we do come home, shall be there a month certain, and probably two, and I am anticipating a pleasant visit, with you all, not like my flying one of last winter. Remember me to the Domine and wife and all the Park Church friends, to all of Kill's family and other acquaintances. I am going over in the morning to the 77th to see Wm. Give my love to all, Aunt Hannah, Libbie, Abbie, Em, Kill, and to all the Washington Counties. Wishing you good health and a merry and happy Christmas I remain as ever.

Your aff. Nephew

Waters

Camp of 93rd N. Y. Vols.  
Near Brandy Sta, V.a.  
December 26th 1863

Dear Cousin Libbie,

I have delayed answering your last favor, from day to day in hopes to write for certain when we were coming home. We expect now to be there before New Years day. Three-quarters of 'C' Co have re-enlisted in the Veteran Corps, so that they are coming home in a body and the officers are to accompany them. Seven Companies of the 93rd are coming they are to have a furlough of thirty-five days, and perhaps will stay longer.

The Veterans of our Regiment were paid off today, their old Bounty and their advance on the new, most all of Co C drew over two hundred Dollars. I wrote to Uncle Waters that Capt Barnes had sent in his resignation, he had done so, but it was not accepted, so the officers of Co "C" remain as they were. The Capt is fearfull that the authorities will try to retain him when the time of the old organization expires, but I think different. You may safely expect me at home by Wednesday, and Thursday certain, please have my overcoat aired, and the cape too. I do not think of anything else at present, did you get the things for Abbie Jr & Lyds babies, in time for Christmas, if so I am much obliged.

A great many of the Army are re-enlisting, and I have no doubt that over a million of Dollars have been paid as Bounties already. Aside from the re-enlisting there is nothing of interest transpiring in the Army. Those of our regiment who do not re-enlist (three companies) are to remain here and we are to rejoin them here. I do not know who they will have to assist them in the duty while we are gone, but it is said that there is part of a regiment of regulars coming. I think even they can learn something of the duty of a soldier on guard, from the 93rd. A great many of our regiment would like it if we were not to return to Head Quarters.

Col Crocker is back and is apparently just the same, he is as flush with his assurances of favor to myself as ever. And has assured me at least a dozen times that I was the next candidate for promotion. I wish I had kept a list of how many times he had done the same for the past two years.

Give my love and the compliments of the season to all the family, and remember me to all the young folks of my acquaintance, at the Park Church in particular. And wishing you all a very many "Happy New Years" in health and prosperity, and before the coming of another, Peace to be throughout all our land, I remain as ever,

Your Aff. Cousin

Waters W. Braman

To Cousin Lib



Camp of 93rd N. Y. Vols.  
Near Brandy Station, V.a.  
February 10th, 1864

Dear Cousin Libbie,

We arrived in camp about noon to-day, came to Alexandria yesterday, but there were so many soldiers returning, that we could not get "transportation", and so had to stay there all night.

We are in our old quarters and resume our old duty to-morrow. I wrote Kill from Washington as soon as I arrived there enclosing the pass for him, in the letter I wrote for him to take the cars at "Myrtle Avenue". I ment Maryland Avenue instead. If he has not started tell him. If he has, he knows enough to come all straight, and will see that it was a mistake on my part. We came through without accident of any kind, and excepting a sleight cold I feel first rate myself. Have not as yet heard anything about being detailed to return on recruiting service, and do not rely on coming just now, as there was three or four of our officers staid on sick leave and otherwise, and I fear it would not be granted if the application were made, perhaps when we get settled it will be made.

I trust Uncles Health is improved ere this, and that Kill will come, now is his chance if he ever intends to do so. Did Em tell you about getting the rest of the Photographs ordered by me? I did not have time to get them although they must have been finished some days before I left, when you get them please send them to me, they are paid for. I think there should be eight or nine. Dont let Uncle or Kill forget to give Deacon Rundell a check (for the clothes on my back) for \$33.75.

I got into Washington about a half hour after the Regt did, so everything was all right. Of course I called on the gentle Annie in N. Y. made a visit of about two half minutes, which deed of charity came near getting me left over in that city. So I think I saw every one on my trip home that I cared to see and lots that I did not care so much about. And therefore am satisfied, and shall be contented to remain - how long I do not know - I do wish though I had got up to Union Villiage, but it can not be helped now. Remember me to all friends, and should you chance to see my picture in a Locket, do not tell Elijah B- for everyone will know it certain that lives in Troy or Lansingburgh.

I shall write to Mary Wheeler this evening, and therefore shall close this letter with love to yourself and all the family from

Your aff. cousin

Waters

To Miss Libbie Whipple  
Troy, N. Y.

P. S.

I enquired about Ephs Box, in Washington D. C. yesterday, and found that it was delivered by Harndens Ex at Falmouth V.a. on the 28th day of February 1863 - and was receipted for by the Provost marshall of the 1st Corps, and therefore I conclude that it was received by some one at the regiment - I have written about it to Mary

Yours

Waters

Camp of 93rd Regt. N. Y. Vols.  
Near Brandy St. V.a.  
February 20th, 1864

Dear Cousin Libbie,

Yours of the present week, (dates Feb 1st I suppose by mistake) I found this evening - awaiting my return to camp. I have been away all day on horseback all over the army, seeing my friends and the army generally, and although I do feel pretty tired I thought inasmuch as you had written twice, it suited a prompt answer. I do not see when you got the idea of my having a bad cold. I do not remember to have written anything to that effect if I did, I must have told a fib for I do not remember now of having had a cold or anything of the kind since my return. I received and answered Kill's letter saying he could not come, and although I regret that such was the case, do not see how he could have done any differently, as long as Uncle's health was so poor. I was fearful that Sunday that he was getting smart to fast, to walk across the River.

Your other letter containing the Photographs arrived safely. Am much obliged for them. How did it come that Abbie forgot to put the thread etc. into my valise? I went to do a little tailor work for myself, and could not find any thread, so I made up my mind it was forgotten, never mind I can get some here.

I must plead "not guilty" to your charge of premeditation in regard to stopping on the way to Albany for I tell you that it was not so, and that I am entirely innocent. Had I known as much the night before, I might have had business down that way, or have been very late coming from Albany, but I did not, and only stopped on the impulse of the moment and am glad I had the "impulse" to do so.

Sergt Fred Myer stayed behind on recruiting service, and if he calls at the house and you have anything to send to me he will bring it I know.

I have my hands full of business now, have to make all the papers for any of our old men who take a notion to re-enlist at this late day. About sixty of them that we left behind are going now. And besides that I am detailed as instructor to hear the 2d Lieuts of the Regiment recite Tactics, and that with helping to drill the new recruits will keep me busy enough. But Guard duty I am free from so that is some gain.

Remember me to all the young folks especially the male part. I have forgotten all the other sex since my return to camp, they bothered my head continually when I was away and now I mean to have some rest.

Give my love to Uncle, Aunt, Abbie, Em, Kill, and all the Washington Co. friends when you write, and with the best wishes for the speedy return to health of Uncle Waters, and the continuance therein for you all, I remain as ever

Your Aff. Cousin,  
Waters

P. S. Lieuts. N--- & B---- wish to be kindly remembered to you all.

Waters.

Camp of 93rd N. Y. Vols.  
Near Brandy St. V.a.  
February 23rd 1864

My Dear Uncle,

Although I have not written directly to you since my return, yet you must not think I have forgotten or ever will forget my friends.

We are having very fine weather indeed for the past few days. And we have had a great many visitors to the Army. We have had two members of Congress stopping with us for a day or two, Kellogg of N. Y. & Higbee of California. We did our best to make them comfortable and they expressed themselves very much pleased with their treatment and reception here. Mr. Kellogg was a friend of Capt. Bs who stopped to see him when we came through Washington this last time, and he invited them down, and I am glad they came. Mr. K----- is going to send me all the official documents and reports that would be interesting. I believe they all have a certain number for that purpose.

I have not seen my brother William yet, do not know whether he is back yet or not. I wrote to Mary Wheeler the same day I got into camp but have not heard a word from them yet.

We are receiving more or less deserters from the Rebels every day, and are continually sending details to Washington with them. They all seem to agree that secession is a doomed institution, and will have to give up soon.

There are a great many ladies in camp now mostly officers Wives & Daughters. The 93rd has but one the Asst. Surgeons Wife & little daughter, the boys have built her quite a house so she is very comfortable.

I trust ere this you are entirely recovered from your late illness. I fear you overdid your strength in going over the river to see me off, and that you are apt to do it in your over anxiety to attend to business, but I hope to hear in the next from home that you are entirely recovered.

Give my love to Aunt, Abbie, Lib, Em & Kill, and to any of the Washington County friends when you write or see them & believe me to be

ever your aff. Nephew

Waters

P. S. Lieuts Newcomb & Bramhall often enquire after your health, and none oftener than that old man from West Troy who is now in our Company. -- Waters

Enclosed I send Libbie two Photographs one of Lt. Kincaid, of whom she has a poor one of, and Corporal Wallace of our regiment. Waters

Camp of 93rd Regt. N.Y. Vols.  
Near Brandy Station Va.  
February 23d 1864

Friend Maggie,

Thanks to Uncle Samuel's excellant postal arrangements, last evening found me the recipient of, first, your favor containing your Phiz, and last but not least the "Waverley", for both of which kind attentions, please accept my sincere thanks. The former which I shall ever keep, will serve to remind me that during my recent - pleasant visit at home, some of its happiest moments were passed in West Troy. How soon the streets of that (but for the mud and some half-dozen other reasons) most delightfull village will be trodden by me again, the future only can tell. Hope whispers soon, but the trouble with Mr. H. is he always whispers what we ourselves wish. The latter I shall read, and although I do not take to myself the doubtfull credit of giving way to the various "temptations" incident to camp life, yet I hope to profit by its perusal.

Writing from camp, it is almost needless to mention our safe arrival etc. etc. I rejoined the regiment at Washington the evening following the day I left home. Have been somewhat lonely since my return to camp, but aside from that, am as contented and happy as any innocent young man (like myself) can be, surrounded by the aforesaid "temptations" & vices which the "Standard Magazine" with pious hands, holds up in holy horror.

I wrote to Bob a few days since. I fear that if he started on his return, at the time intended that he met with rough weather off the coast. Have you heard from him? I ask because there is no certainty of my doing so soon, directly from him, perhaps he will write and perhaps not. I always keep him right in my heart however, therefore I charitably hope he will sooner or later.

And since you have so kindly written once, you certainly cannot so cruelly forget the last clause of the often quoted "temptations" which being addressed "to those at home" says "write often".

Remember me kindly to your Father & Mother also Pa & Ma Jones & Jones Jr. with the auburn hair.

& believe me  
ever your friend,

Waters

Miss Maggie Getty  
West Troy, N. Y.

P. S. If I do not say what I think of the "Carte de Visite", you must credit it to my dislike of flattery in any form. W.

Camp of 93rd N. Y. Vols.  
Near Brandy Station, V.a.  
February 29th, 1864

My Dear Uncle,

Your Welcome letter of the 23rd I received some days since, but not so soon as one from Kill of the same date. I am rejoiced to learn of your improved state of health and hope it may be permanent. I wrote to you a few days ago I think it must have been about the same day that you wrote to me. I am expecting Kill every day after this, untill he comes, and am hoping for pleasant weather for him but am a little fear-full. We have had elegant weather for the past fortnight, scarcely a drop of rain, but today is cloudy and threatening. This being the last day of the month we were mustered for pay for the last two months, which pay we expect to get about the middle of this month.

I had a letter from Mary Wheeler yesterday. They were all well but I presume you have later news from there than myself. I had a letter from Sergeant Myers who is on recruiting service, he has got some men for the Company. We are expecting about twenty down from Albany this week which will fill our Co. up so that our Orderly can be mustered as 2d Lieut.

You have doubtless learned of the Cavalry Expedition from here. About all we know of it is that All of the Cavalry from this army are gone on it and the 6th Corps have gone in the other direction to attract attention and the rest of the Army are under orders. I do not think it will cause a change of camp for us. But I hope the move will be successfull. The Cavalry went down below Fredericksburg to our left and it is said are to join a force from Genl Butlers command, and make a "Grand Raid".

I am glad to hear of the continued good prospects for Ephriam and hope they will all be realized.

Tell Em that I will write to her in a day or so, and come to think I believe I owe Abbie one for the note enclosed with another letter but I will not forget her or any of my friends.

With love to Aunt Hannah and all, and sincere wishes for your own and Aunt Hannahs good health for years to come, I remain,

As ever your  
Aff. Nephew

Waters W. Braman

P. S. Am in Splendid health and condition. I am getting fat, just as I did after my trip home last year.

Waters

To Waters W. Whipple, Esq.  
Troy, N. Y.

Later

I am going to Washington in the morning with prisonors and hope to meet Kill there.

W.

(Excuse size of note paper)

W.

Camp Near Brandy Station V.a.

March 19th, 1864

Friend Maggie,

Again I have the pleasure of acknowledging your last favor, also on the same day the Waverley was welcomed, I can scarce say which the most. Which of us should feel the most flattered by our correspondence is a matter of some doubt? I think myself, owing to your kind offer to send me th Waverley (which offer I am more than happy to accept) that I have the most cause for congratulations.

I should have liked right well to visit the "Bazaar" notwithstanding the danger I should have been in "under fire" of the eyes of those fair young misses you speak of. Since writing you I have been to Washington. While there visited the "Grand Sanitary Fair" at the Patent Office. But fear the specimens of the "fairer sex" on exhibition there would suffer materially by comparison with the still more fair daughters of Troy and the vacinity.

You are doubtless aware that Kill has been visiting me for the past two weeks, he started for the bosom of his family this morning, and but for my having quite a number of letters to write I should be very lonely. As it is I miss him, for he has been the "light of the house", and I am in command of a company away from the regiment and having no other officer expect to be lonesome.

I have not heard a word from Bob as yet but hope to soon. In regard to that message of Sarah's, I hardly know how to take it, but inasmuch as it would be impossible for me to supply her with, or give her reliable information as to the exact "shade" of my head gear at so early a stage of my civil life, she must excuse my lack of knowledge on the subject. Are you serious about the young man being named after a Military individual of our acquaintance? I really could not tell, when at West Troy whether it was all a joke or not. If true I beg you to express to its Mother, my thanks for the unexpected but none the less appreciated honor, conferred upon me. If it is a joke you are trying to perpetrate at the expense of Sarah and myself - but I do not think that of you so will say nothing more about it.

You need not fear but that my "patience" will sustain me in answering everyone of your letters. I only hope you may be blessed with an equal share of that virtue.

Remember me kindly to your Pa & Ma, Mr & Mrs. Jones and Jones Jr., also to Mill and Frankie. I believe I forgot them entirely in my last, but it was unintentional on my part. With renewed assurances of my regards, I am,

Your Friend

Waters

Miss Maggie Getty  
West Troy, N. Y.

Camp of 93rd N. Y. Vols.  
Hd Qrs Army of Potomac  
March 21 '64

My Dear Uncle,

Your last containing also one from Libbie I received a day or two before Kill left me. He started day before yesterday and I suppose by this time he is at Home. I hope he has arrived safely. I heard from him yesterday at Washington, and expect to hear again as soon as he gets to Troy, but the only real danger even of an accident is between here and Washington so I take it for granted he has arrived all safe. I hope Kill enjoyed his visit, and have no reason to believe otherwise, for I am sure all was done by myself or friends to take care of him and to show him camp life and nothing more, nothing extra to eat but just as we live the year round, and a pretty good insight into our duties in the field. Tell him that the talk now is that we are not going to have the grand review, although General Grant is expected soon, as it is said he says he does not want the reviews but to ride around among the camps and see the soldiers there (all humbug in my opinion). If true it is well he did not wait expecting to see them.

I suppose I might have went down to Washington with him. I would certainly have liked right well to do so but did not think it just right to ask it when I had been so recently, and there are so many wanting to go.

There is talk that the Rebs show a disposition to move if so we will be on the move soon. Our sick are being sent away. You speak of coming down yourself, as I should be glad to have you yet I think it would be most to much for you, but will send you a pass any day you say so, if possible.

Tell Kill I would be lonesome but that I have a housefull (of smoke) all the time.

We expect every day to return to our old duty, just as soon as the 20th N. Y. M. get back from furlough of thirty-five days.

I have not heard but one from Mary Wheeler since I returned from home, have written twice myself.

With love to all the family and kind remembrances to all friends I am as ever

Your Aff. Nephew

Waters

Waters W. Whipple Esq.  
Troy, N. Y.

Camp of 93rd N. Y. Vols.  
Near Brandy Sta. V.a.  
March 1864

Dear Cousins Libbie & Abbie,

Owing to circumstances beyond my control I have been unable to find time to write to anyone, and not even to do justice to Kill, on the other hand I have had him at work making out "pay Rolls" and a very apt scholar I found him. We went to ride today but the fates were against us in the shape of a rainstorm, and we had to turn back, but as I am over the hurry I have been in for some few days back I hope to devote more time to his entertainment. He seems to be enjoying himself very much now.

Genl Grant and President Lincoln are here today, we have not seen them yet but hope to do so. It is unknown what the meaning of this visit is but of course all have an opinion on the subject.

I do not know of anything that can be interesting in the way of news. The ladies are all ordered out of the army and I guess all citizens will be soon, and that will mean business.

Enclosed I send two Photographs of Officers of the Regt. I believe you have one of Lt. Northup but I think this is a better one. They are both going to give Kill one each.

Kill says he is lonely only he has a sore                      under his coat from riding horseback.

I am very much obliged for the nice cake you sent & tongue. Also to Em, tell her that I am ashamed I have not written to her ere this, but will do so soon. With love to all Aunt, Uncle, & Em, I am,

Your Aff. cousin

Waters

P.S. I attended the Sanitary fair in Washington at the "Patent Office" it was splendid. I wish Kill had come a day sooner - W



Camp of 93rd N. Y. Vols.  
Near Brandy Station, V.a.  
March 25th 1864

Dear Uncle

Your last of the 21st I received last night also Kills of the 22d. The latter informed me that yours was answered better than I could do it. Also Abbies letter came in the same mail so I was pretty well posted as to home affairs for one day. I am glad to hear that your health is so much improved and trust it will be permanant, also that Aunt Hannah's health is so good.

Genl Grant came down to the Army yesterday. We had everything prepared to give him a reception, by turning out all the troops around Head Quarters but he cheated us by going right on to Culpepper and did not come here untill after dark. He will probably have a good chance to see what difficulties the Army of the Potomac have in the way of mud, for we had a snow storm (of about ten inches) day before yesterday, and today Rain, and no end of mud. I am glad Kill came just as he did for although we had some hard days while he was here yet we have had nothing to equal what fine ones we did have then.

We received yesterday a very sad piece of news and very sudden in the shape of a telegraph stating that Capt. Hiram S. Wilson of "H" Co died the night before at New York City where he has been on a detail for drafted men, he died of erysipelas. He was president of a Genl Court Martial in N. Y. City. He is a brother-in-law of James Fonda Esq. The officers had a meeting last evening and passed resolutions expressing our sympathy with the family, and share in the loss. He was a very warm-hearted man and although he had his peculiarities (who has not) yet he was a good officer and a perfect gentleman. But so it goes. One goes, and another takes his place and the one gone is soon forgotten. I shall undoubtedly be appointed to the Captaincy of his late company, one of the largest and best in the regiment. It is the company which is now encamped with the one I now command, and was associated with it in guarding the prisonors last summer & fall, and in all probability will do the same for the coming year.

I do not know, but yet I do not think the advent of Genl Grant will at all derange the present position of the 93rd but it is impossible to form any idea of the sudden changes in the Army. Should anything of the kind occur, you will hear immediately, but I do not anticipate any-thing of the kind. I suppose Kill has told you all the news, probably ten times more than I should think to write, and I can only add that I am well and hearty and hope you and all the family will be the same untill long after the present year and war.

Hoping to hear from you as often as possible, but if I do not I know it is something besides the will that interferes. I am with love to all, as ever

Your Aff. Nephew

Waters

Enclosed I send Libbie a picture of Major McConihe W.

Camp of 93rd N. Y. Vols.  
Near Brandy Station, V.a.  
March 28th 1864

Dear Cousin Libbie

I was intending to write to Em tonight but owing to your addition to Uncle Waters' of the 25th which I received today she must wait for you. I can only give as the reason for my having so neglected you and my other lady correspondents has been first, owing to Kill's visit, you heard through him at least every other day of our whereabouts, health, and in fact more news than I generally write, and since his return I have had occasion to write to him and Uncle W- so often that I have hardly had a chance to write to any of the rest of you. Now I have not written to Em since my return and I feel ashamed of it. You must not think that I have or will forget any of you for I mean to give you all a chance in your turn.

Sergt Myers was here a few days since he came down with recruits. He promised on his return to call and ask you to get for me a dozen of my photographs printed at Cobdens (I hope Elijah B- will not be too communicative) and to give him one now or when you get the dozen. Please do so and what of the dozen you do not wish to appropriate otherwise send to me by mail. I wrote to Kill that if he got the commission for me, or heard that it was all right, to send my trunk. Now do not fill it up with bedclothes or that pillow for I have plenty of both those luxuries, but you may send my dressing-gown and slippers and that citizen's vest and also the military vest and pair of pants that I left in the clothes press when home. I have dry-goods enough to about half fill the trunk and with company books and papers would quite do so. If you and Abbie would be kind enough to do so I would like about two shirts made as all that I can buy are far too small after the first or second time they pass through the hands of our he-male washerwomen. Get some kind of fancy goods not too heavy for summer and make the sleeves long and the cuffs large around the wrist, and get me a set of Ivory sleeve buttons with the letter B on them and work holes in the wrist-bands for them. Make them large enough around the neck for a 15 $\frac{1}{2}$  inch paper collar to button on. I do not think of anything else that I need as it is more on account of the books & papers of the company that I intend the trunk for.

I have not written to Carrie yet but intend to soon. I wrote to Mary Wheeler as soon as I got Abbie's last for fear that it was me that was behind, for I know I have sadly neglected my lady correspondents lately. Tell Kill that the proof-prints of those pictures have come and ask him how many I shall send him. I guess a couple will be as many as he wants, and I will also send you one. I thought I should have had a good picture but mine is the poorest in the groupe.

Have you sent that sermon of Chas S. R's down to Mr. Knowlson. I wish you would apologize to Mrs. Morrison & Mrs. Dermott for me that I did not call at their houses as invited also to the younger member of both families. I suppose they would hardly speak to me (so I hear) now. Why on earth did they not live on the Lansingburgh or Albany Roads and I could they have dropped in almost any day. You need not tell them all I have written but make the proper apologies for me.

Letter of March 28th 1864

Sime Newcomb wishes to be kindly remembered to all the family, he is over to my tent now over five-fourths of the time, talking over our visit home. I guess he wants to get some information, that I either do not or wont know anything about. He was very much shocked to hear of the death of Sarah Potter as you know they were school-girls together at Poultney, and he speaks very high of Sate, and I know she was not engaged to Leroy-Morey.

Remember me to all who enquired and with love Aunt, Uncle, Abbie, Em, Kill, and all absent ones when you write I am as ever

Your Aff. Cousin

Waters

Camp of 93rd N. Y. Vols.  
Near Brandy Station, V.a.  
March 31st, 1864

Dear Em,

I have just received Kill's letter the one directed to HdQrs, am very much obliged to him. I wrote him all the particulars in regard to the "recommendation", also answered his telegraph. There is a rumor here that we are to be brigaded. And we have cried wolf! wolf! so often that I begin to think there is something in it. One reason that makes it look probable is, the 114th P.a. Vols. have been permanently detailed here, because they are Pennsylvanians - still they are a fine Regiment, wear Zouave Uniform, have a fine "band of music", and a change surely is necessary once in two years. We have had our chance here and perhaps it is but just that we try our chance in the "front". I have so much faith in the sayings of "Mother Rumor" this time that I do not believe I will have my trunk sent, for the present. I am a little more anxious on that account about the commission because I should like to get mustered in here by Capt Sanders. Tell Kill that if he gets it to direct to HdQrs.

Of course we know nothing about the Brigade "officially", being merely a story among the boys. And I for one should not be surprised if there was foundation for it to. And we are ready!

There are a great many consolidations growing out of the breaking up of two of the "Corps", and in some Brigades & Divisions the officers have raised a big muss, but such action will only get themselves into a muss. Of course the feeling extends in a measure to the "men" for every one thinks their own Brigade, Division, & Corps the best, and do not like the idea of having it swallowed up by another Corps.

I suppose you was about half scared to death about Kill when he was here, but he can tell you now that there is nothing so very fearfull about a soldiers life, or so very unpleasant either. I hope that if the 93rd is brigaded that none of you will worry on my account, for I can look out for myself if anyone can, and mean to do my duty too. And if it be my fate to die in the field of battle, so be it. As good as myself have died and will before this seasons campaign is over. But I do not mean to if I can help it, and do not fear it at all events.

Tell Abbie that I have not forgotten that I owe her a letter and will not either.

Remember me kindly to the young ladies next door and Miss Virginia if she comes, also to all of Kill's family and any who feel are interest in my welfare. Give my love to all the family over home, with the same for yourself & Kill, I am

Your Aff. Cousin

Waters

Camp of 93rd N. Y. Vols.  
Near Brandy Sta. V.a.  
April 4th, 1864

Dear Uncle,

Your last Kind letter was duly received. I did not answer it immediately because I was corresponding daily with Kill and news would be a drug in the market. There is nothing new or exciting now. The story that we were to leave Head quarters reached the point of having us brigaded in the 2d Corps, but for the past three days seems to have been dying slowly, untill at last we hear no more of it. The Colonel and four of the Captains are on Court Martial that will take them a month at least, and if the Army should chance to move, we should not be likely to leave here, but if the order comes, go we will, and when the time comes we will show them we can do our part of fighting as well as guard duty. It seems that Genl Meade has contemplated sending us away ever since he first took command, and the least thing now will turn the scale for or against our going.

My Commission has not yet arrived I certainly expected it to-day, if Kill had sent it the day he got it, I should have received it yesterday but sending it on Saturday takes one and sometimes two days longer, but it is all right. I am very much obliged to him. I suppose it will be here tomorrow certain. I shall be mustered immediately on its arrival.

Sergeant Myer is here again and goes to Albany again to-morrow. I presume he will be back and forth for a month or six weeks to come.

Capt. Johnson of our Regt. has been appointed Lt. Col. of the 115th N. Y. and will probably leave us tomorrow or next day to join his regiment in Florida. That will make another vacancy of Captain.

I think I must have been mistaken in regard to my not hearing from Mary Wheeler, at all events I have again written.

I am very well indeed, in fact getting fat, and think I shall be able to stand the campaign of the coming season, here if our Uncle George G- is willing, or in a brigade as well.

We have had about three days snow and rain, and the mud you may imagine about hub deep poor look for a sudden move, although I think the campaign will begin at an early day.

Please remember me to Mr. Kerr and Mrs. Kerr also Mr. & Mrs. Robertson, Mr. & Mrs. Knowlson & family and in fact all of the Park Church folks, Young & old.

Give my love to all Aunt, Abbie, Libbie, Em, Kill and all the absent ones when you write, and with the kindest wishes for your own good health I am as ever

Your Aff. Nephew

Waters

To Waters W. Whipple, Esq.

Troy, N. Y.

Camp of 93rd N. Y. Vols.  
Near Brandy Station Va.  
April 5th 1864

Friend Maggie,

Again with pleasure I have to thank you for the Waverleys. Also your favor of Thursday P. M. As you say, it is nice to have a correspondent. To me it is certainly so, and who would not feel satisfied with the very one they would have picked from a thousand to exchange thought with. I have always had a holy, but undefined, horror of lady correspondents, and scarce dared to indulge in such luxuries, for fear of some of the nonsensical trash which some of the fairer (I beg your pardon, sterner) sex are prone to indulge in. But if I had taken my choice among all the young ladies it was my good fortune to meet while at home, I should certainly have chosen Miss Maggie G. and I am now satisfied that my judgement would not have proved false. Excuse all that. But little did I dream that I was to be so fortunate when I went home. I am glad I went.

In obedience to your request I have again written to Robert and he may thank his stars that he has so good a sister to think of him. I wish I had. I have heard from him indirectly however through a letter that Kill received and forwarded to my benefit, so I did not feel altogether like a stranger in writing to him.

I hope, if you see anything in the Waverley, that particularly recommends itself to your thoughts and sentiments, and you think proper, that you will mark it for my benefit, and dont erase the marks afterwards, for I am sure you would not call my attention to any article that was not good and sensible, which I could not fail to appreciate. I am very much attached to the said Waverley and think it the best magazine for young people and old too that I ever have seen. I am gratefull to you for sending it, for you little dream of the idle hours in camp, and lonesome, homesick, hours too they are. With the thousand and one ways of getting rid of them, therefore, I should thank and be gratefull to the one who took interest enough in my welfare to assist me in "conquering" that enemy "Idleness" and the many "temptations" he claims as allies. Therefore I agree with you that "it is more blessed etc"

You are pleased to be severe on "Lansingburgh" with reason perhaps, for I too am ashamed that I allowed new friends to consume so much of my time to the sad neglect of many older and tried ones. The regret comes too late alas! You are like the girls over home. They think they know all about it, and give me credit for more visits to that "abused village" than I am entitled to. But when the reasons why come to be all explained, my few visits will be easily accounted for. It is very natural for a young man to call the second time, when he is made to feel at home on his first visit and urged to call again. And that is one reason why I always felt so at your house. But enough on that subject, suffice to say that Lansingburgh has a friend a Captain in this army and a friend of mine with a very similar name also.

I think that Day vs. Gubbins case a very singular one, but am not all surprised, and as you say, hope Miss Emma will have sense enough to treat it as it deserves. I hope she wont have him, you feel so anxious on the subject.

How does my friend Katty flourish or do you not know? I came near forgetting all the news. The 93rd are to be brigaded, so says "Dame Rumor" (how curious that the story venders are all of the feminine gender") and the ancient lady further informs us that we are to join the 2d Corps. Now this is the same story that we have heard for over a year and a half, still with more of the color of truth this time than ever before. If so, we are ready at the word, to bid good-bye to our snug quarters at HdQrs. and take our chances among the more dangerous but less arduous duties of more active service. Another piece of news is that I have been promoted to Captain and am supposed to be obeyed and respected accordingly. Remember me to all. Your Father, Mother, Mill, Frank and Saray and family. Awaiting yours in reply I am

Your friend

Waters

Miss Maggie Getty  
West Troy, N. Y.

Camp of 93rd N. Y. Vols.  
Near Brandy Sta. V.a.  
April 18th, 1864

My Dear Cousin Lib,

Your last of the 9th I had the pleasure of receiving in due time. I am very much obliged to you for the Photographs and to you all for the box and shirts which by the way have not yet arrived, but I am expecting it every day and am going to Washington in a few days and will get it then certain.

I have been very busy lately straightening out the affairs of Co "H" as you know Capt Wilson was away so long and the intermediate commanders not having responsibility let everything go as long as possible - but I have about got everything all right. Our Regiment have to-day drawn new Springfield Rifled Muskets, pattern of 1863 - they are much nicer than the Old Enfields. And we feel proud of them accordingly.

General Grant reviewed the sixth corps and the Artillery Reserve today. I saw the latter. It is said the Sixth Corps review was the finest ever witnessed in the Army.

All citizens, sutlers and the like are gone from the Army, and we are left alone in our glory.

The Brigade rumor has like all its predecessors died a natural death, and is no more. The last we heard of it was that the General wanted to have a regiment of Regulars but since he could not succede in getting them preferred to retain the 93rd.

I am glad however that I did not have my trunk sent down, as all the others have or will have to send theirs away. I wish you had sent my slippers in the box, but after we get on the march I shall not need them.

I do not know what you mean by my insinuations, and as to what I know about Sarah Potter that is told me confidentially, and that is something I never betray.

I hope you wont think this note paper looks suspicious as it is some belongs to a young Lieut. lately appointed in Co. "K" and my key unlocks his valise. And even then I think I only keep about even with him.

Remember me to all who think often enough of me to enquire, and with love to Uncle, Aunt, Abbie, Em, Kill, and all

I am as ever

Your Aff. Cousin

Waters



Camp of 93rd N. Y. Vols.  
Near Brandy Station, V.a.  
April 18th, 1864

Friend Kill,

I have the pleasure of acknowledging two favors from you the last containing the Shoulder Straps, arrived this evening. They are very good, and will suit first rate. They are not just like the old first Lieut straps. They are the best I think I ever saw.

You should have been here to-day. There was a grand review of the Sixth Corps to-day by Generals Grant and Meade and it is said it was the "biggest thing" of the kind ever gotten up in this Army. I did not see it, but there was a review of the Artillery Reserve (on the ground you remember we walked over, going to see the siege guns, and came back afoot) and I did see that. Ulyses S. goes in high style.

Vet bothers the life out of Ball about the Catawba Brandy, and you know Ball is no match for him.

The Box has not yet arrived, but I am expecting it along daily. I Hope it will come before the things spoil.

Sime Newcomb's commission has not yet arrived. I am at a loss to account for its delay. The notice of his and my own appointment came some days since. At my suggestion Sime went down to Grants head-quarters to-day to see if he could learn anything about it, but without success, and I think it mighty strange. Sime has been awaiting its arrival to write you an elaborate letter of thanks, and although he feels somewhat dissapointed, he says nothing. Col. Johnson took his leave of his old home this morning and he felt real sad at leaving his old haunts, runways and pals. I think that either Adj. Gifford or Lieut Francis Bailey will get the next captaincy. I do not feel at all anxious on the subject myself. By the way I forgot to say that I was mustered in as Capt. on the 13th Inst, and got it dated back to the fourth, the day before it arrived here, so everything is lovely.

The Sutler's, that place renowned far for oysters and Bay-water is defunct. Its remains were last seen being sadly borne towards the station en-route for Washington.

We got our pay day before yesterday. I do not know as I shall be sending home any money this time as I have only got about \$125 after paying an unusually large sutler's bill and the opening campaign bids fair soon to commence. Did you charge me with the ten Dollars you gave me the day you left here. If not please do so, I have forgotten whether I was to send it to you, or you was to charge it. I am very much obliged to you for procuring the straps and trust some day to be able to repay many favors which I am your debtpr.

I had a letter from Robt. I. a few days since, he is all peaches as usual, and spoke of receiving your last.

Remember me to all over to Fourth street, love to all over home. Ditto for yourself & Em & Believe me

As ever

Waters

Camp of 93rd N. Y. Vols.  
Near Brandy Sta. Va.  
April 21st 1864

Friend Maggie Jane,

I am very glad to hear you found the time, which I had almost begun to fear you had lost. It is scarcely fair to say that either, for I do you more justice than to think you could forget, unless perhaps. I regret to learn of your having met with an accident. Allow me to sympathize with you, and hope that ere this you are convalescent.

Since hearing from you I have received a good long letter from your dutiful brother. It fully makes up for all deficiencies in the past, and is full of promise for the future. He is, if his word is to be relied upon, (and I do him that credit) more contented, now that he is more actively engaged, than when he was doing orderly duty for the army officers.

The 93rd are at last B-r-i-g-a-d-e-d, and those beautiful colors so long borne, and so galliantly at Hdqrs, are at last to pay a maiden call upon the rebellious sons of our respected Uncle. We are in the 2d brigade 3d Division 2d Corps, although our entire Division are a part of the 3d Corps and we will wear the Old Kearney patch, a red diamond, as our badge of distinction, and if the 3d Corps are ever re-organized we shall undoubtedly join it. We have no reason to complain, we took our leave of Hdqrs with flying colors. I may say we graduated with honor, and have left a good reputation, and hosts of friends, both high and low. The brigade Division & Corps are all we could wish, their name (now ours) is above reproach as soldiers. And when the proper time comes the 93d will do their share to sustain that name. For one I can freely say (and say it boldly) that I am satisfied with the change.

Your insinuations with regard to "Lansingburgh", "Captains", and "very near friends", I fail to understand. (If it were so I would have told you) I can only say in indication of my own innocence that I this evening called upon Capt. Brennan of the 3d Mich. Vols. a friend of mine in this fighting brigade, and he showed me a landscape which I immediately recognized as the fair and gentle Lansingburgh, and for aught I can say "She may be etc. etc." Perhaps you intended that paragraph for him. I can excuse you on account of the similarity of names. Yes it must be that, is it not? It was that last verse which impressed me favorably, in the piece that was erased. I did not form a very high opinion of the rest of it. Your memory must be perfect and I can not for the life of me see how you came to mistake me for my friend Capt. Brennan.

My friend "Katty", well you have got a little the start of me there. For I did think her quite a promising young lady untill a little circumstance occurred which considerably changed my opinion. And I honor you for your deferance and respect for your Mothers wishes. If I had ever had one (doubtfull?) I think I should, yes I know it! Friendship! What is it, but the tie which binds these whom

circumstances have brought together, as easily broken as the bond which confines mortals to this earth. To be sure time cements some friendships which binds heart to heart never to be severed, but a Mothers love, what can excede that? It overlooks all, and never relinquishes the affection due to a child. That is one of my few misfortunes, never to have had a mother, and I can only think what is due to such a relative, and what I would, and would not do to comply with her every wish and thought. I pray you to excuse me for speaking so openly of my feelings, but I do consider you my friend, and if my particular friends are few, I can say my enemies are far less in number.

Adieu to Hdqrs, Wall Tents, "Soft bread", extra baggage, and the kindred luxuries. Come "Hard-tack" and what ever hardships are connected with a soldiers life. I am ready for it, and willing to do my duty and if I ever do come out of this war (of which I have not a doubt) I mean to have it said that I ever did my duty.

I intend to write Bob and hope to do as well by him as he has by me. He speaks of the gentle Annie, and I should judge that they were on the best of terms. I hope so as it seems to be your own and the wish of all. I'll give him the best of advice on the subject.

Remember me to all who deem my welfare worth the trouble of enquiring. My regards to all the family at home & Mr & Mrs Jones & baby. You need not pay my respects in Lansingburgh as I sent them by the Captain, With kindest wishes, and regards for yourself, I am

Your friend

Waters

Miss Maggie Jane Getty  
West Troy, N. Y.

Camp of 93rd N. Y. Vols.  
2d Brigd 3d Div 2d Corps.  
Near Brandy Sta. V.a.  
April 26th 1864

Dear Cousin Abbie,

Your last of the 20th Inst. I received the first letter after being brigaded. I am glad to hear that you are all and especially that Uncle Waters is so well. I hope you will have a safe and pleasant trip out West. I had a letter last evening from Mary Wheeler they were all well and were expecting you out soon, and were preparing to receive you.

There is lots of folks getting married 'aint' there? Some folks would. They may for all of me I shall when I get ready but cant say that I am just now. If any one asks, you can tell them You dont know. It is very strange that if a young man goes to Lansingburgh, once or twice, or West Troy two or three several times & perhaps comes back by the way of N. Y. City, he is gone certain, and it is known in Wabash, Ind. ere he known it himself. I think I shall be in less danger on Picket tomorrow, then in either of the above mentioned places. Remember me to all the marriageable young ladies in Troy & vicinity. I will beau all around next winter that I failed to do this last one.

We like it very much in the brigade we are in. We moved camp today, only a little way however. I guess it was to make the offices send off any surplus baggage, and you know one never knows how much they have got till they come to move. I am going on Picket tomorrow, to be gone three days. I do not see how I shall be able to carry eatables enough to last me that length of time, that is all that troubles me just now.

I received Kills last yesterday but shall not answer it untill I return to Camp on the 1st or 2d of May.

Give my love to all the family out Wabash, and to all in Troy. Remember me to all friends and believe me as ever,

Your Aff. Cousin,

Waters

Enclosed I send a picture of my orderley sergeant John W. Godden.

W

Sat. night May 7 '64  
9 O. C. P. M.  
Camp in the field  
Between Chancellorsville & Gordonsville

Dear Uncle,

We have been fighting for three days constantly, on very nearly the same ground the regiment has been engaged with the Rebels five times.

I am not wounded, but have three bullet holes and one shell through my clothing, and one bullet struck my sword and bended it pretty bad, so I have five marks about me to remember the Rebs by. Capt. Barnes was killed the second day, on a charge. Co. C suffered very much.

The Regt lost 15 officers killed & wounded and about 245 men.

Sgt Myer was badly wounded (in the head) as he was carrying the colors on the first day.

Of my own Co, I have Lt. Ball wounded (slightly in the foot), Sgt. Smith is killed (picture enclosed) and 17 or 18 men killed and wounded, out of 47 I brought into the fight.

I got three holes in my clothing and my sword bent the first day in less than half an hour. The next morning at daylight we charged and drove the Rebels about a mile & a half and on that charge I got the shell, which struck me right on the ankle between the feet, and although it stung a little did not bleed me at all and in fact only damaged my trousers, which on my right leg are in rags. Two of the bullet shots, one on my leg, and one on my arm, just started the skin and that was all, so I am all right, and hope to be tomorrow?

The news has just come, that the Rebs are leaving, the firing has ceased in our front and we are under orders to march immediatly, tonight.

Love to all - good night. In haste

Ever your Nephew,

Waters

P. S. The fighting today was terrible.

W

11 A. M. Monday  
Camp I do not know where  
May 9 '64

Dear Uncle,

I am all right yet, there will probably be no fighting of any account today, but perhaps to-morrow. I think we will have it a little easier now, for we have suffered terribly in our Brigade - but we drove the Rebs every time. Enclosed I send a copy of an order just read to the regiment, Our Brigade have lost over half their number killed & wounded. Our Brigade Gen. Hays was killed the first day, and all the brigade staff are either killed or wounded, the last one Lt. Judkins was killed yesterday afternoon, by a shell while showing our regt. when to take up our position to return a brigade that was engaged, Since I wrote two days ago we have only lost about 15 men killed & Wounded - our loss in all is

4 officers killed  
13 officers wounded  
41 men killed  
198 " wounded  
256 total killed & wounded

Col. Crocker commands the brigade since the first day. He does splendidly - Maj McConihe ditto. They have both had very narrow escapes.

Love to all -

In haste

Waters

Hd. Qrs. 3d Div. 2d Corps.  
May 9 '64  
10 O'c A. M.

Colonel,

Will you express to the officers & men of your gallant regiment,  
my full appreciation of their distinguished conduct in the recent engagements.

(signed) D. V. Birney  
Maj. General

Col Crocker

Hd. Qrs. 3d Div. 2d Corps.  
Wednesday May 11 '64

Dear Uncle,

Since writing you, day before yesterday, I have been detailed as the Provost Marshall of our Division, on the Staff of Maj. Genl. Birney. So I now have a horse to ride and much easier times. I knew nothing of being detailed untill the order came, and I think myself in luck. Not that I feared to do my duty in the Regt, for I consider that it was because I did it so well that I was detailed here. Genl B- thinks the 93d are the Regt.

Our Brigade was not engaged yesterday, although the fighting was very severe. The other brigade of our Div. lost heavily.

You need not feel at all alarmed on my account, for although in more or less danger, I feel that I shall come out all right.

Did you get my two other letters?

In future address my letters to HdQrs 3d Div 2d Corps dont put on the Regt.

With love to all I remain as ever,

Your Aff. Nephew

Waters

P. S. We are driving the Rebels every day, and mean to keep them going - W

Our Corps are laying now near Spottsylvania C. H. V.a.

Genl B- has a splendid staff. I shall undoubtedly remain here all summer.

W-



Hd Qrs 3d Div 2d Corps.  
Near Spottsylvania C. H.  
May 16th 1864

Dear Uncle & Aunt,

I have written to you every chance I have had, I think three times, have you received them? I am still at Genl Birneys Hd Qrs. Our staff grows gradually smaller & smaller as one and another is killed, wounded, or missing, but I am still all right aside from being pretty well tired out. We are getting a days rest to-day, and what there is of the army will be O. K. to-morrow. My duty on the staff mostly consists in commanding the Provost Guard, receiving and sending forward Prisonors of War, arresting straglers etc. But yet I am liable at any moment to be called on by the Genl to carry an order to the troops, or something of the sort when the rest of the staff are likewise employed. I like Genl Birney very much. I turned over to Genl Hancock a few days since Eleven flags of the enemys, captured by our Division, one by a Corporal in my own Co. The 2d Corps and the 3d Div are all O. K. with Genl Grant, and the 93d is ditto in this Division and well they might be if amount of fighting and number of killed and wounded are any criterion. The 93d have had 20 officers killed and wounded and about 290 or 300 Enlisted men.

We are having some few men come on from Washington. Col Butler returned last night with the last of the Recruiting party that he had with him.

Col. Crocker is all right. Also Maj. McC. who had done splendidly, and had some very narrow escapes, as have every man and officer in the regiment, or in the army. Lt. Newcomb is all right, he is on Col. Crocker's staff as A. D. C.

We have received no mail for the Army, only the different Hd Qrs. We have mail at our Hd Qrs but of course none for me, since the campaign opened, but I trust soon to hear, if you direct as enclosed.

I think the fight will be resumed to-day or tomorrow morning, and I trust, and believe, the result will be in our favor.

I wish you would ask Kill to send me a pair of Staff Shoulder Straps for myself. They should be Captains with a black ground, not very large ones of dead bullion if possible. Also about  $3\frac{1}{2}$  yards of gilt braid about  $\frac{3}{16}$  of an inch in width, for stripe to pants. Deacon Rundell will know the kind.

With love to Aunt Hannah, Lib, Abbie, Em, Kill, and all in Union V-  
I am as ever, your aff. Nephew

Waters

Hdqrs. 3d Div 2d Corps  
Near Spottsylvania C. H. va.  
May 19 1864

Friend Maggie,

Your esteemed favor of the 31st ult is just received, by the first mail since the beginning of this, so far, very lively campaign. I am perfectly willing to bear any responsibility or blame arising from your writing on Sunday, except that imposed by your own conscience which I trust will be very lenient especially since it is a duty to write to "our brothers". But aside from that I can assure you that it is a pleasure highly esteemed, by all soldiers, and by me to be honored with a correspondence from a friend, especially I can say I appreciate yours but think you underrate your own prowess and abilities.

I know of no foundation to the story of my having re-enlisted, other than a rumor, that all officers who availed themselves of the "thirty-five days furlough" would be held with the men. But if at the expiration of my original term, I can hororably leave the service, I shall do so, and I see no reason why I can not. If we are to have much fighting of the latest fashion there will be neither officers or men to retain. In fact it is already found necessary to consolidate regiments. I for one hope to be alive at the close of the season's campaign, and trust too by that time, to see the close of this rebellion.

You of course are willing to let "Lansingburgh" drop especially as you have the best of the argument. I will only say, by way of news which I am very sorry to have to write, that my namesake Capt. B of the 3d Mich was killed or taken prisoner on a "charge" made by this Div. on the Second days fight.

I regret to learn of Frankie's sickness, poor fellow I hope he will outgrow it in time. I am glad to hear of Sarahs being settled in her new home. Give my best wishes to her for her success in house-keeping and for the entire, and speedy, recovery of herself and the boy.

I also have been the satisfied recipient of another letter from Robt. I think that is doing very well for him, and feel assured that my hopes for him will yet be realized.

You have my sincere thanks for your kind wishes for my success and safe return. Return I do intend to, thats certain.

Next in yours, comes, (woman like) that P. S. (If possible more inexplicable than the "Lansingburgh affair", I pray your pardon for mentioning it) What do you mean by "you suppose this very agreeable correspondence must close before long?" I trust you will explain. I for one can not see the necessity for it, but as it always takes two to agree ----- But I leave it in good hands, and await your reply.

Here I have nearly filled this sheet and have written nothing yet. The 93d was in all the fights at the "Wilderness" and here. I do not wish to boast, but the loss of three hundred officers and men and the name they bear in this Division is sufficient praise. But what can compensate for the loss of friends, that we have marched, tented, messed, and lived with for over two years. There is my old Capt. (Barnes) who

was killed in the fight of the second day. His company neither carried his body off the field or took the things from his pockets, and my company passed right over his body, on the charge of the 3d day, and the Rebels had stripped him of everything. I was detailed a few days since as Provost Marshall of our Division, so I now have a horse to ride and my position places me upon the staff of Maj. Genl Birney, and think this a little safer position. But as it was entirely unsought after by me, I do not know as I am to blame for accepting. As for myself throughout the fight I can only say that I was in my place, and did my duty to the utmost. And I have five (5) marks of Rebel shot and shell, about my clothing, to show for it, but am most happy to be alive to say I am unhurt in person. I have lost about one-third of my company so far. My 1st Lieut was wounded but is now in command of the Co.

If as I hope this correspondence is to continue, your will please address me Capt. W. W. B. Hdqrs 3d Div 2d Corps, A. of P.

With kind regards to Mr & Mrs G, Mill and Frankie & Sarah & Mr J & their boy. I am with continued assurances of my best wishes for yourself

Your Friend

Waters

Miss Maggie Getty  
West Troy, N. Y.

Pray excuse style etc. W--

Headquarters, Birney's Division,  
Second Army Corps,  
May 20th 1864

Dear Cousin Libbie,

Yours of the 10th Inst, I received last evening, and Carries this morning, I was very glad to hear from home as it was the first since leaving camp. I think there must be a mail back yet.

Yesterday morning we left the extreme right of the Army and came down to the left, and lay quiet all day, and began to flatter ourselves that we were to have a quiet day, but no such luck for this Div. - for about dark the Rebs came down on our right and broke through to the Fredricksburgh turnpike, and we were ordered down on the double-quick and got there just in time to lose about 20 men from our 1st brigade. We got in position, and about 3 o'clock this morning advanced and drove the Rebs across the NY River and we are now back where we were yesterday, and hope to have the first day of rest in 15 days. I guess they want to let us rest, for a night movement soon. If there is any-thing of the kind, we are in for it sure, and we are ready.

The 93rd did not lose a man last night. I like it here to HdQrs even better than HdQrs A. of P. We live first rate, when the Rebs are willing to let us.

I have not seen Mr. Robertson yet expect to go to Fredricksburgh in a day or so. I would to-day but my horse needs rest and I do too. I wrote two letters before the one that Carrie speaks of and one or two since. I think I will write to Uncle W. out to Wabash. I trust you will not worry to much about me, for I feel that I shall come out of this war all right. I will write to Em in a day or so, but you must not look for long letters. As for war news you have a good deal more in the papers than ever occurs, and that beats me. Remember me to all friends who inquire. With Love to all I am as ever

Your Aff. cousin

Waters

Near Hanover Junction  
HdQrs 3d Div 2d Corps  
May 25th 1864

10 O'c. A. M.

Dear Em,

Your letter I rec'd at the same time as Kill's and Libs. I was beginning to think you was never going to write, and yet I knew better.

In regard to those pictures they are all finished, at Washington, and as soon as I can get a chance to see the Photographer I will have them sent direct to Kill.

I intended writing direct to Uncle Waters at Wabash, but the movements of the past few days and the receipt of Libbies last letter saying they would be home on Saturday, I have decided not to.

Our Div, as usual has been somewhat engaged with the enemy during the past four days. Lt Little of the 93d had his foot shot off. Lt Newcomb has his ankle fractured, but not badly - the 93d have suffered more than any other regiment I know of. 22 officers and about 335 men killed and wounded.

We are slowly driving the enemy all the time, yesterday in front of the 2d Corps was one continual roar and rattle of musketry and cannon. Our Div crossed the River (North Anna) in the face of a terrible fire of grape, and canister, seasoned with solid shot, shell and all the fashionable missals of modern warfare. We are laying still today, that is as much so as we can in sight of rebel earthworks and in range of veteran Sharpshooters. But a friendly hill shelters the sacred bodies of the Maj Genl Comm and Staff, and yet neither Genl B - or any of his staff fear to go where, it seems impossible for any live thing to live a single minute.

In the charge of night before last my company lost 5 in killed and wounded.

The rebels are continually coming in as prisoners, some are very bitter, others are a great deal more so only the other way, and they are by far the greater in number. They say that Lees army is very much dissatisfied and that their leaders tell them all sorts of lies, and that it is impossible for one of them to learn the truth of anything that transpires outside of their own corps. We have Longstreets corps in our front, they report him very dangerously wounded through the left breast, the second days fight at the Wilderness. Everything looks hopeful with us, we fortify every night what ground we gain by day, so that we mean to hold all we do get. The Rebs wont face the breastwork they have tried it too often to their sorrow in this campaign.

Ask Kill to send me by mail, a set of staff buttons, 13 large and 6 small ones.

Remember me to the young ladies, and all enquiring friends. Give to all the family, without robbing yourself and Kill, the love of

Your aff. cousin

Waters

In haste

HdQrs 3d Div 2d Army Corps  
Near Hanover-town V.a.  
May 29th 1864 Sunday

Dear Cousin Libbie,

Your letter of the 19th was received some days since. I am very sorry my letters did not arrive more promptly, so as to save you any uneasiness on my account, but it must have been from the irregularity of the mails. I see that the New York papers and also Philadelphia reported me as killed. I think that occurred by the men who were wounded on the charge of the second day as I did not get out of the fight for some time after the regiment was relieved

We are now on the south side of the Pamunkey River about fifteen miles above the White-House. We are laying still to-day, but have marched night and day to get here so the men need the rest, pretty badly.

The 93d have not lost any men since I wrote last (to Em). Lieut Newcomb was not very badly wounded. I suppose he will get a furlough home and will undoubtedly call at the house.

I suppose the folks have returned home ere this. I trust they stood the journey well.

The country we have been marching through for the past two days has heretofore been unvisited by the Yankees except cavalry. Some of the families cleared out and left everything and as a natural consequence their property is pretty well destroyed, but where the inhabitants have remained we have given them guards and prevented marauding as much as possible, but my guard dont disturb the boys if they do once in a while get a pig or a chicken especially where the politics of the said pig or chicken is decidedly secesh.

We are again on the Peninsula and soon will the second Peninsular campaign begin I hope with better success than the other. The base of supplies for the Army will probably be at White-House. We destroyed the Fredricksburg road so it can never be used without entire re-building. Quite a number of the regiments in our division are going home or rather what is left of them, and that is mighty few I can tell you. They were all in the first battle of Bull Run and have escaped but few, since that time. A great many of the regimental organizations will remain on account of Veterans and recruits, but consolidations will be necessary ere long.

We are having very fine weather indeed and hope it will continue. I wish you would thank all my friends who are kind enough to enquire after me, and also remember me to them. I have not seen Mr. Robertson yet and hardly think I shall for Genl B's HdQrs are generally about two hundred yards from the front line, and my business is about there too, and the christian commission will scarce come so far.

With Love to Uncle, Aunt, Abbie, Em, Kill Delight and the children, and the family in general, I will write to Carrie soon. I suppose she has gone home. I remain as ever.

Your aff. cousin

Waters

Camp of 93rd N. Y. Vols.  
2d Brigd, 3d Div, 2 Corps.  
May 1st 1864

Dear Cousin Libbie,

Have just returned from a three days "tour" of "Picket Duty". Yours of the 24th ult. was sent out to the outpost to me. I regret to learn of the indisposition of Aunt Hannah, and hope she will be entirely recovered in time to start on the Wabash trip. I had a letter from Mary and they are all anxiously looking forward to the expected visit, and were preparing to make the folks feel at home when they do arrive.

I am glad to hear that you all had so nice a time up to "the village" and that it was such a perfect succes (on Carrie's account). Sime Newcomb plays innocence in regard to any young lady in Union V-- enquiring after him. That piece of news in regard to the "Double Wedding" was, a few days since, quite a piece of information to me, but I have heard it so many times now, that it does not seem so strange. It is a good deal like a man "telling a lie so often, that he begins to believe it himself after a while". And what every one says must be so. How do you do, Madame Cannada? But I do think it must have been some good friend of mine, who started the story in the first place. If it were true I should not want to deny the fact, for I think Miss G--- a moddle young lady, one whome none need blush to acknowledge, but so far as I am concerned, I can freely say that "Madame Rumor" l--s, and I have your word that the "old lady" tells a fib in your case, so I think you can safely contradict both stories, but I hope the day may come, and an early one, when there will be more foundation for a matrimonial scandal, or rather gossip, in your case and who knows but in my own too. All I have to do is to get this job finished, and then commence looking up the other party to the bargain.

If Mr. Robertson has not started tell him that he can find me, by following the Railroad beyond Brandy Station for about a mile to a big white house, take the road that turns to the left and the regiment is in plain sight, the first one, in an orchard. And I shall be more than glad to see him, at my quarters.

We are having Drills, Reviews, and Inspections, in succession, as sure as Tuesday follows washing day. But like the Brigade right well, (question? would it make any differance if we were not satisfied?)

Give my love to Uncle, Aunt, and Abbie, (with them a pleasant and safe journey, for me) also to Kill and Em (thank her for her last favor). And with kind remembrances to all my friends in Troy and elsewhere, I am as ever,

Your aff. coz.

Waters

P. S. Give my love to Carrie, Job & Birdie when they come. Tell Carrie to remember me to all the young ladies in U. V. who were kind enough to enquire after me. W

HdQrs 3d Div 2d A Corps  
June 3d 1864  
Near Cold Harbor V.a.

Dear Uncle,

Yours from Wabash of the 22d, I have just received. I am very glad to hear from you direct for the first time since on this campaign, and also that you are not more "used up" than you write, by your journey.

You are right in supposing my position now to be one less dangerous than in command of a company. But still if I do my duty, as I intend to I shall be more or less under fire every time the Division or any part of it are engaged. And any one at Genl Bs HdQrs is very apt to be.

For a wonder this Division has been in reserve to-day, and have suffered only from shelling.

The 93rd have been very fortunate lately, there are no other officers wounded than I have written or you have seen published in the papers.

I also recd tonight two letters from Kill. Am very much obliged to him for the Straps and gold braid. The Straps are excellant. I can-not tell just at this moment whether I owe any of the girls a letter and this must do for all. I think however I only owe one to Carrie.

Our base of supplies now is at White House. It is expected to have the rail-road in operation in a few days. We expect some hard fighting now every day, and hope to be succesfull.

I have not seen Mr. Robertson yet, and scarce expect to unless I go down to White House on business.

My own health is very good and I trust you are ere this recovered from the effects of your journey.

Give my love to all the family at Home and away. Remember me to Mr. Kerr and all the Park Church folks and to all friends who enquire and believe me as ever.

Your Aff. Nephew

Waters



Head Quarters 3d Div 2d Corps  
Near Cold Harbor Va  
June 4th 1864

Friend Maggie,

Your favor of Thursday afternoon, not dated, but correctly directed, I received with pleasure last evening. Your "thousand and one" excuses are unnecessary, in regard to your letters being tedious etc. for I consider this the best of any, as I was not a little troubled by that unlucky P. S. and was somewhat - what? I dont know! Perhaps anxious.

Unlike you, I am rejoyced to learn of the advent of the renowned and long expected Count De-Gubbins on Mlle. Emma's account. I suppose his presence now, satisfactorily explains his long delay, for I believe he was expected sooner. I beg you to congratulate the happy couple on that eventfull day in June for me, and I hope that not a single cloud may ever darken their sky. Neither the title of count be washed away in crossing salt water. But that the best wishes of her own family for her may be fullfilled. I perfectly agree with you that I should be thankfull for not having been killed, but as to the wounded part, why in the patriotic times of the present day, a wound is certain thirty to ninety days furlough. The fortunate owner of a slight wound is sure to escape months of fatigue and privation. I am a great deal more thankfull that we live well at Hdqrs. than that I am not wounded. I shall not even get wounded though if I can have my way.

For a wonder, during the severe fighting of yesterday, the 3d Div 2d Corps was in reserve, although moving about under fire the entire day. What today has in store for us I know not, and care less, if we only succede as we ever have, and hope to. We are getting our supplies from White-house, the Rail-road is soon to be in running order. We are on McClellan's old fighting ground, and his Shovels and Picks are very fashionable, although they were not (in the papers) in his time. I hope for the best, but we must have some terrible fighting before the fall of Richmond. All have confidence and hope in General Grant.

I trust you will not think me hasty in answering, but when we receive a mail there is also a chance to send one. Therefore I write this morning, not knowing when I may have another chance to send.

What a "proficient" you will get to be in Housekeeping, even to "Rocking the cradle". You will certainly be a model wife for some fortunate young man.

Oh: "I would this war were over", and although I trust and hope this summer the Rebs will see the folly of their ways and give up, yet I am perfectly satisfied with what fighting I have seen and expect to see, and the coming fall sees me in citizens clothes if possible. And as long as there is a "39 First street", I think I will stay there. I hope Bob will arrive safely and to remain. I have written him, but have not heard from him since I wrote you last.

I suppose I should appologize for having misconstrued that P. S. but it is now forgotten so I can not.

Please write me all about the Second Street wedding. Are you to "stand up" with Emma? How well I remember Sarah's wedding, and how badly you all felt.

Remember me kindly to your Mother and Father, Sarah & family, Mill & Frankie, ditto Miss Maggie who I trust will not forget in her prayers

her friend

Waters

HdQrs 3d Div 2d Corps  
June 9th 1864  
Near Gains Hill V.a.

Dear Cousins Abbie & Libbie,

Your letters Abbies of the 31st ult and Libbies of the 3d Inst, I have just received. I answer both at once because I do not know when the chance will come again before I have more from home, although I think when the Railroad gets in operation we will get a daily mail.

As you can see we are getting slowly towards Richmond. The Rebs have very strong Earthworks, so have we only short musket range from theirs. All attempts of either party to carry the works of the other has been defeated with loss to the attacking party. Everything looks as if we were going to make a regular siege of it the rest of the war to the heart of Secessiondom. Sutlers are to be allowed in the Army. The differant HdQrs have their tents up, bands playing etc.

The Rebs gave our HdQrs a terrible shelling last night, doing great damage to the trees and mortally offending our sensitive ears, but doing no other damage. They have been quiet to-day I think they got the worst of it last night, for our two Batteries, right in front of our HdQrs fired at them for an hour after they had done firing at us.

I have not seen Mr. Robertson yet although Libbie writes he is assigned to this Division, he is either at the Hospital or at White-house, probably the latter, I may go down.

I am glad to hear that the Western Tourists arrived safely and are feeling so well over their trip - I would like to be home for a few days just now that all the folks are there. You must have a house full. But that would be only natural.

I am very well and like more and more my position at these HdQrs. I must needs get poisoned in swimming the other day, but am all right again, each limb was as big as two ought to be, but not in the least sore, neither did it keep me a minute out of the saddle.

I am glad to hear that Fred Myers is at home and so as to be around. He is just as good a boy as there is in this Army. Sime Newcomb I hear is home too. None of them can other than give a good account of me.

I think I must have received all letters except one from Uncle Waters, if he wrote two, for I only recd one.

Love to all, at home and abroad, regards to all the young ladies & friends in general. As ever

In hast Cousin

Waters

P. S. Enclosed I send a Photo of one of the staff, a Philadelphian.

W-

HDQRS 3rd Div. 2nd Corps.

Near Petersburg, Va.,

June 17th, 1864

Dear Uncle;

You will doubtless think I have delayed in writing, but tonight is the first chance to send mail that we have had for over a week.

We crossed the James River three days ago and are now about one mile east of Petersburg. We have had some severe fighting but so far have been successful and hope to take the City of P---- within the next twenty four hours.

I have been very well, as usual, Your last letter I received two days before we crossed the river. I am glad to learn that you are still feeling so well after your journey and hope you and Aunt Hannah will continue so. It must seem like old times to have Delight and the children all there. You will scarcely get lonesome.

I do not know what has been the loss in the 93rd in this fight, not at all severe however. They are very lucky of late, in fact the Brigade has been.

Our army and trains all passed the River in safety, quite a large undertaking to cross an army like this over so large a river.

We have taken about 700 prisoners today and 2 guns. Neither the men or guns were ever used against the Army of the Potomac before. The guns are not likely to be again (Beauregards Corps).

The weather is most favorable for us and we must accomplish something soon. I hope to see the winding up of this war this summer.

I owe Kill a letter and will write soon. Tell him not to wait, however.

Remember me to all friends and give my love to Aunt Hannah and all, and believe me as ever,

Your Aff. Nephew,

Waters

PS I wish you would credit Peter McDonnell with (29.00) Dollars and charge it to me. I have the money but do not think it safe to send it by mail.

Waters

HdQrs 3d Div 2d Corps.  
Near Petersburg, V.a.  
June 19, 1864

Dear Kill & Em,

We are a little nearer Petersburg than when I wrote to Uncle W--. The Rebs have a strong position as we know to our cost.

I recd Kill's letter over a week ago and Ems last night. I am all right and feeling well as possible.

Genl Birney is in command of the Corps, and Genl Mott (late comdg. 3d brigade) is in command of the Division. It will probably be but for a few days, owing to the breaking out afresh of wounds received by Genl Hancock at Gettysburgh. I wish Genl Birney could be permantantly in command of the Corps. I do not know as it would change my position at all, but for his sake it would suit me, and if I had any change it would undoubtedly be to accompany him to Corps HdQrs. That would be very hard indeed (?)

We have just heard that Major Birney (the Generals half brother, and lately the Adjt General of this Division) is dead, he left sick about ten days ago. He was a splendid officer in his department, and a good friend of mine, and beside the General I feel his loss as much as any one at these HdQrs. He died at home in Philadelphia, and leaves a young wife, only married last winter.

In the late fights the 93d have lost but few men and only one officer wounded, (Lieut. Fitch).

Lieut Hubbell has got the commision of Capt. that Lieut Kincaid was trying to get. I am glad of it to, although Lieut H-- tried to get the best of me, you remember.

Those pictures of Kills, I have ordered sent from Washington, and if you have not already received them, you will soon. I think I acknowledged the receipt of the braid, straps, & buttons, all first rate.

I am in hopes as soon as we get an Express office started to send Kills spurs and my sword home to Kill.

If Kill, you were only here now I could show you lots of sights without leaving camp, but I am glad you are not, for it is very unhealthy now days.

Give my respects to the Fourth street family and to the young ladies next door, has Ginnie Christer come yet? When she does remember me to her.

With love to all the family over home, and kind wishes for you both, I am as ever.

Your Aff. Cousin

Waters

(In haste)

Near Petersburg - V.a.  
HdQrs 3d Div. 2d Corps.  
June 24th 1864

Dear Kill,

Your last favor of the 17th I have the good fortune to be alive to acknowledge. By the same mail I also received the boots, I have not had time to try them, and scarce to say I am much obliged to you for sending them. About every man in this army has his hands full of business, and too few hours in the day to do it in. We are now pretty well below the city of Petersburg with our left resting on the Weldon R. R. which is said to be in part destroyed by our forces. If Bobby Lee dont "pull up the pants on us" and drive us in into the "single corner" we are all right, but although I have all confidence in Genl Grant, yet if he keeps at the game of knocking against the Rebel earthworks, he will soon have nary army to enter Richmond in triumph. Yet it will never do to give up the ship and I dont want you to think I am in a desponding mood, or that the army are at all demoralized neither unequal to meeting the Rebs in a fair field. I expect we will make another flank move to-night either back towards city-point or further into the "sunny-south". And sunny indeed it is, not a drop of rain in the past month, and oh! so hot, in the middle of the day.

Lt. Kincaids commission will scarce get him into Co F, and I am glad it will not. Lt. Bramhall is back to the Regt he says not a word about being beaten by K--. I am not sorry for that either. In fact I think the Pro-Mar. Dept is about as independent as any in the Army, so I dont care much for any of them or their little quarrels.

How comes on the "son"? Who you going to vote for for President? What is going on for July 4th in Troy? I wish I had been at your house at your little re-union. If I could only get a slight wound I might be home by the 4th but no such good (or evil) fortune for me.

Remember me kindly to all your family and to all of my friends even "Wm B. Kussed". Love to Em and all over home, as ever

Waters

P. S. Have you gotten the Pictures yet? I sent six, do with them as you think proper. Be carefull how you tell any stories about me, for you can not know how much trouble they may give me, and may ---- well all right.

W

To A. J. Rousseau Esq.

West Troy, N. Y.

HdQRS. 3d Div 2d Corps  
Near Petersburg Va.  
June 29, 1864

Friend Maggie,

Yours of the 20th inst. containing "sea breezes" from the Hudson, was received some days since. I should have written in reply sooner but that I could not very well direct to you at New York City so as to ensure a letter's reaching you. And although you say nothing about how long you are to honor the "Empire City" by your presence, I judge that this will reach you soon after your return home. As I can not wish that you may have a pleasant journey, I can only hope you did have. I am sure you would think me ill mannered should I say I would not like to have had the pleasure of taking tea with you on the River, and I am just as sure I should agree with you in your opinion. I think it would be "nice" indeed.

There being a slight difference of opinion in regard to "poor property" and "unfortunate being", it would be ungentlemanly in me to discuss it, so I wont.

I am glad to hear the wedding is safely over, and the happy couple fairly launched on the "sea of life". I trust your forbodings of "all her trouble to come" will never be realized by her. Is it not strange that you think Emma such a model young lady and I think just the opposite, perhaps it is because I formed my opinion years ago when I was not old enough to judge between right and wrong. She must have changed wonderfully in the six or seven years that elapsed from the time I knew her untill I met her at your house, but I must say the old prejudice still remained. Yet I am willing to take your opinion for what she is, not was. If You write her as you undoubtedly will give her my kindest wishes for her happiness, and hopes that the junior Gubbins wont be cross or have big walking apparatus, but I fear they will.

More excuses, and then to speak in the same sentence of letting the "motion of the boat shake hands with you". Why Maggie, how could you be so imprudent. You must not - I wont say that.

I can imagine the delighted expression of your Mothers face when my friend Cotty called. Why will you insist on saying my friend. I honor Miss L -- for her summary treatment of her delinquent swain. Were I her I would let him go, faster than ever his dad's horses did.

I do not hear a word from Robt in an age so it seems to me, he is not at all like his sister, I wish he was more so.

As usual I am on the last page and not a word of news.

First comes the biggest man in this army "in my opinion" that is myself - I am well, never better.

I forget from where I last wrote you, but we are now on the south east side of Petersburg Va. near the Petersburg & Weldon R. R. have had terrible hot weather, fighting daily and loss of life to eclipse hundreds of "Berkshires". We are constantly contending against the Rebbs

behind their earthworks (built some of them a year) and you can scarce imagine the amount of fighting and loss of Life & Limb required to drive them out, and then another line of works, and more charging in line of battle to take them.

We must have lost more men on this side of the James River than the Rebbs have, and I know I have seen sights I would scarce have believed, to hear from any one.

My Regt have been fortunate lately, and although they keep steadily loosing some men, yet they meet with nothing like the Wilderness fighting, and I hope they wont.

I have been relieved from duty as Provost Marshall, and am A. D. C. to the General. I expect to be Pro. Mar. again in about a month, when some of the staff now away wounded are expected to return. It makes but little differance for I had about as much staff duty to do as Pro. Mar. as I do now, and expect to have it to do again.

That was a good joke on Mr. R---N was it not, telling you the news!

Give my kind regards to your Father, Mother, Sate and family and all, and don't forget, to mention in your prayers,

Your friend

Waters

Miss Maggie Getty  
West Troy, N. Y.



HDQRS. 3rd Div. 2nd Corps.  
Near Petersburg, Va.  
June 29th, 1864

Dear Cousin Libbie;

I can not exactly answer your last because I cannot find the letter itself.

We are on the South East side of Petersburg, Va., on the P---& Weldon R. R. No fighting for the past four days in our immediate front, so we have had quite a rest. Our lines are so that we can get into a little fight at a moments notice, both lines watching the other all the while. There is continued shelling of the city-on our right and the 6th Corps on our left are continually fighting over the possession of the Rail Road.

Our men were pretty well worn out, with fighting & marching in the broiling sun and building breastworks nights. But I suppose after Muster Day (tomorrow) we shall try and give the Rebs a thrashing.

The time of service of many of the three year regiments are daily expiring, but there have been so many changes in the organizations, that there are comparatively few men to go out, and government keep just such officers as the Corps commander chooses to retain with the men who remain. This makes quite a disapointment to some officers who have calculated on going home. I dont know how it will be next fall but I am coming home if possible to do so honorably.

I dont know how it is about my owing Mary a letter, It is possible but I have no remembrance of receiving one from her about the time she says, or since I have written her. I do owe Eph one ever since just before we left Brandy Station. I mean to answer his, and will write to her soon.

What is going on in Troy for "Fourth of July"? As far as "fire works" go, we have been celebrating it for near two months.

I have been relieved from duty as Provost Marshall to be A.D.C. to General Birney, and shall probably do that duty for about a month and then go back to Pro. Mar. again, that is, if those of the Staff now away wounded return by that time. It dont make much difference as I had about as much Staff duty to do as Pro. Mar. as I do now as Aide.

I shall send by Mr. L. Barber, Chaplain of the 2nd U. S. Sharpshooters, tomorrow morning, a pair of genuine Reb Spurs which I took from a Johnny myself, and have worn over a month myself. Chaplain Barber is the celebrated Fighting Dominee of the A of P. He was wounded at Mine-Run last November. He returned to the army about three weeks ago but has to have an operation performed on his limb, and so goes north. He has been on our Staff since his return. He will probably call and leave the spurs at the house, and you will find him a splendid man and a good friend of mine. He has probably killed more Rebs during this war than any other man in this army, and is a good man too. You will like him if he has time to make you a call of any length, as I hope he will.

Love to Uncle, Aunt Abbie, Delight & the girls, Em & Kill and all, and believe me as ever,

Your Aff. Cousin  
Waters

PS Dominee B's wife is a Union Village lady. W.

HdQrs 3d Div 2d A Corps  
Near Petersburg V.a.  
July 3d 1864

Dear Cousin Abbie,

Your latest favor I received in due time (as the mails are now days). I know I should have enjoyed your picnic had it been my lot to be present. In fact I think I could enjoy a week or two at the north very comfortably just now.

We are having continued hot weather and terrible dusty. We have not moved camp since I last wrote, and with the exception of one brigade, sent to the support of the cavalry on the extreme left, none of the division have moved. The short stay here has not been altogether one of rest, for there has been an immense quantity of back papers to be made out, and muster & pay Rolls for the entire army, quite a bundle of papers if they could all be seen at once.

How soon we shall again commence more active operations, I can not tell. There has been activity enough on the Right, in front of the 9th Corps all the time. There both sides continually amuse one another by shelling & picket-firing day & night while in front of our Corps there has not been a shot fired for four or five days. And our Staff frequently ride along the Picket Line on Horseback. Perhaps the Rebs will give us a little Private entertainment to-morrow being a National Holiday, but I do not think we shall commence anything of the kind ourselves.

I think Mr. Robertson must be mistaken about his being across the North-Anna the same night that the troops crossed for I very much doubt if any of the Christian Coms were within ten miles of the place. It was not at all a healthy place. I distinctly remember that the 93rd Regt fought on the bridge and that they had three color bearers shot on the said bridge, and Lt Little lost his foot also. Mr. R-- must mean the night we crossed the "Mattapony". HdQrs were in just such a place, and all the Trains were there, and I was on duty with the rear of the Division which did not get into camp untill after dark. I am very sorry I did not see the Domine. I wrote in my letter to Libbie that I had sent Kill a pair of Spurs. I also sent my old sword that I had at the Battles of the Wilderness. Chaplain Barber is to send the sword by express and will deliver the Spurs in person, I directed both to 39 First St. I trust you will sustain the well known reputation of the house, by entertaining the Domine handsomely, and you will be well repaid for there is not a man (in my opinion) in the country who is better informed or has seen more of what has transpired in the Army of the Potomac.

Enclosed I send a Photograph of Lieut Mosine. He was either killed or taken Prisoner on the charge of the 12th of May, the last that was seen of him was at the 2d line of Rebel works with a captured color in his hand. He belonged to Co. F.

Captain Kincaid returned to the Regt to-day & called on me this afternoon. He expects to get mustered in tonight.

Give my love to all at home and regards to all friends, and believe me as ever.

Your Aff. Cousin

Waters

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 <sup>d</sup> <sup>r</sup> <sup>d</sup> <sup>d</sup>  
Q 3 Div. 2 Corps  
Near Petersburg, Va.

<sup>t</sup>  
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 57<sup>th</sup> Va. Infty. captured by this division on the 12<sup>th</sup> 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 Roughs 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 & Fraternaly 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).

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12/6; 12/13; 12/22; 12/26; 5/9/64; 5/16; 9/6;  
9/21/64 (Resigned)

Culpepper C. H. 9/17/63; 11/9; 3/25/64

Cumberland (Frigate) 4/6/62 (undated)

" on the Pamunky River 5/8/62 (undated)

Dahlgren, Capt 7/19/63

Darling Fort 7/31/62

Davis Col (Ass't Inspect Genl) 10/2/63

Deserters 3/30/63; 8/29; 8/31; 11/23; 9/9/64; 12/21; 12/24; 12/24/64

Dickenson, Lt Col 7/19/63

Draft 7/19/63; 7/27; 7/27; 8/4; 8/6; 9/10; 11/9/63

Dry Tortugas (Disobedience of orders) 4/39/63

Dutch Gap 10/10/64

Elections & Politics 10/18/63; 10/19; 10/22; 11/5; 6/24/64; 8/24;  
9/6; 9/11; 9/28/64; 10/10; 10/21; 11/3; 11/12;  
11/16;  
Emmitsburg, Md 7/3/63  
Em's baby 4/9/63  
Evans 7/8/62; 7/13/62; 9/25/62  
E.P.H. (see Wheeler)

Fairfax Sta 6/15/63  
Falmouth, near 11/22/62  
Fenton for Governor 11/2/64  
Fisher, Lt Thos. H. 7/31/64  
Fillman, Capt Walter 5/24/63  
Fitch, Lt 12/4/63; 12/13; 6/19/64  
FLAG - STAR\* 8/24/64  
Flagler Capt ord off 5/27/63  
Fonda, Jas 3/25/64  
Fuller, Lt (C.M.) 3/20/63; 9/17; 10/2; 10/12/63  
Fortress Monroe 4/6/62  
Fredericksburg 11/22/62; 12/12\*; 3/3/63; 4/29; 5/13; 7/5; 5/29/64  
Fremont, Genl 10/31/62; 11/15/62  
Franklin, Genl & Div 1/31/63  
" Div (Fredericksburg) 12/13/62  
Frigate Cumberland 4/6/62 (undated)  
Furlough (Rob) 6/5/62; 6/30/62  
Funeral 11/22/63

Gains Hill, Va 6/9/64  
GERTY, Margaret Jane (1st Letter) 3/23/63\*  
" Frank 3/19/64; 5/19/64 &c  
" Robert 3/23/62 &c  
" Milford 5/19/64

Gettysburg 7/5/63  
Getman, David 10 Cav 3/22/63  
Germantown, Va (on Rappahannock River) 8/4/63; 8/20/63  
Gibbons, Genl 7/15/64  
Gifford, Adj 3/6/62; 12/13/63; 4/18/64  
Gilmore, Genl 11/5/63; 11/9/63  
Gidden, Jno. B. (Orderly Serg.) 4/26/64  
Gardonsville 7/19/63; 5/7/64  
Grant, Genl 3/21/64; 5/ /64; 3/25; 4/12; 6/4; 6/24; 7/19; 8/28; 9/11/64  
Groveton, Va (Bull Run Battlefield) 10/15/63  
Gubbins, Emma 4/5/64; 6/4; 8/29; 10/24; 11/3/64  
Gunboats 4/6/63 Cumberland; 5/29/62 Marblehead; 5/29/62 Currituck;  
7/4/62 & 7/8/62 MONITOR; 7/8/62 Galena; 7/8/62 Teazer;  
7/13/62 Teazer; 7/10/62 Commodore Winks; 7/13/62 Mortar  
Fleet; 8/1/62 Six Steamers; 5/11/62 Elm City; 8/19/62  
North America; 1/23/63 Respoke

Haller, Maj G. S. 9/11/62; 9/30; 10/31; 12/3; 12/9; 2/4/63; 2/10;  
2/15; 3/5; 3/28; 5/30; 4/12; 6/11; 8/11/63  
Halleck, Genl 10/9/62; 7/19/63  
Hancock, Genl 5/16/64; 6/19; 7/15; 8/4; 8/8; 8/28; 9/9; 11/8; 11/12/64

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Hanover Junet 3/28/64  
 Hanovertown, Va 5/29/64  
 Hampton 4/6/62 (undated)  
 Harris, Ira (Gov) 8/20/63  
 Hays, Brig. Genl (Killed) 5/9/64  
 Hill, Genl (Fredericksburg) 12/13/62; 3/3/63  
 Hill's Corps (Rob) 7/15/64  
 Hickey (Co. 1) 12/13/62  
 Hobart, Capt Co. B - 93rd 5/4/62  
 Hoeker, Genl 10/9/62; 10/29; 10/31; 1/31/63; 2/6; 5/10; 2/15;  
 2/22; 3/20; 4/29; 5/13; 5/13; 5/16; 5/27; 6/18;  
 6/20; 6/30/63  
 Hubbell, Lt 8/29/63; 5/15/64  
 Kalden, Wm (of Ireland) Co. G - 93rd 10/18/64  
 Kyle 5/20/62; 5/29; 8/28; 1/15/63  
  
 INCALIS, Capt 6/1/62; 9/19; 9/16/62  
  
 Jackson, Genl (Fredericksburg) 12/13/62; 5/12/63  
 Johnson, Capt 7/31/63; 4/4/64; 4/18/64;  
 Jones 2/25/64; 5/19; 6/4/64  
 Jones House, Va 10/21/64; 10/24; 11/3; 4/5/65\*  
 Judkins, Lt (Killed) 5/9/64  
  
 Kellog, Senator of N. Y. 2/23/64  
 Kerr, 1/28/63; 8/4/64  
 Lemmy, Lt Chas 11/14/62  
 Kent Court House (after May 9, 62)  
 "Kill" (Achille Roussseau) 3/19/64 &c  
 Kincaid, Lt & Capt 2/25/64; 6/19; 6/24; 7/3; 8/19; 10/24/64  
 Knickerbocker, SS. 6/30/62; 7/4; 7/8/62  
 Knowlson, Alex 5/13/63  
 " Joe 7/14/63  
 Knoxville, Md 10/9/62  
 Kuncy (N.Y. Tribune - "D.J.R.") 7/27/62 (See news from Harrison's  
 landing on first page of Tribune)  
  
 Lee, Genl 5/10/63; 6/28; 7/5; 7/14; 9/10; 10/18; 12/4; 12/6  
 Leesburg 6/21/63  
 IER MARRIAGE 5/23/63; 6/1; 6/9; 6/30; 7/4; 7/8; 8/2; 8/11  
 Leslie, Frank Pictorial of August 23, 1862  
 LINCOLN, President 5/18/62; 3/23; 4/27; 7/10; 10/31; 11/15;  
 4/4/63; 4/9/63; 4/14/63; 5/ /64; 8/24/64;  
 10/21/64  
 Little, Lt 2/15/63  
 " Lt Joe E 1/15/63; 3/1; 4/9; 7/27; 8/11; 8/25/64; 7/3  
 Loring, Col 12/9/62  
 Longstreet, Genl (Fredericksburg) 12/13/62; 3/3/63; 12/6; 5/25/64  
 Loretteville, Va 7/19/63  
 Ludlow, Maj 9/7/63; 9/21/63  
  
 Monacas 6/21/63  
 May 7/13/62  
 Mason & Slidell 7/10/62  
 Majority 5/29/62; 6/1/62 &c  
 McGruder, Genl 3/8/62; 2/15/63

Magruder Fort 5/8/62 & undated letter  
Mattaponi River 7/3/64  
MCCRELLIAN, 3/19/62; 2/23; 4/27; 7/10; 9/9; 9/11; 9/16; 9/18; 9/25;  
10/31; 11/11\*; 11/7\*; 12/12; 2/22/63; 3/1; 3/20; 4/12;  
5/13; 5/16; 6/28; Testimonial 10/27/63; 10/22/65  
McCombe, Capt & Maj Samuel 3/5/65; 5/15; 5/30; 11/23; 11/23/64;  
12/4; 12/6; 12/12; 3/25/64; 5/9; 5/16;  
"(McCombe)" 9/9; 9/21; 11/16/64  
McDowell, Genl 9/11/62; 10/31/62  
MADE, Genl 7/5/63; 7/14; 7/19; 8/29; 9/21; 10/18; 10/19;  
10/22; 10/29; 11/10; 12/4; 4/18/64; 7/13;  
8/3; 8/25/64  
Meagher, Thos F as Brig Genl 9/5/64  
Merrins 4/6/62 undated; 4/18/62; 5/8/62 undated;  
7/27/62; 7/31/62  
Meridan Hill 3/18/62; 9/11; 9/30/62  
Mess 11/23/62  
Milo (Milo E. Washburn) 2nd Lt Co. C 93rd 3/22/62  
Middleburgh, Md 9/11/62  
MOHNER 4/6/62 undated; 7/2/62; 7/6/62  
Moore, Lt 9/30/62; 1/28/63  
" " Curdie 2/11/63; 2/22/63  
Morris, Col 2/6/62; 3/19/62  
Morrison, Col 2/7/63  
Mossy 12/13/63  
Mossins, Lt 7/3/64; Co. F 93rd  
Mott, Genl 6/19/64; 7/15; 7/31/64\*; 8/28; 10/10; 10/21;  
11/8/64  
Mustering out date ? 10/29/62  
Myers, Sergt Fred (Lieut Co K) 5/30/63; 6/6; 7/27; 2/20/64; 2/29;  
2/29/64; 4/4; 5/7; 6/9; 7/15/64  
  
Newport News 4/6/62 undated  
New Kent (2 miles from Cumberland on the Pamunkey River  
a branch of the York ) 4/6/62 undated  
about 27 miles from Richmond  
Newspapers Hooker said none except by mail to stop trading  
2/22/63; 2/28/63  
Newcomb Lt 2/25/64; 2/28; 4/18; 5/16; 5/25; 5/29; 6/1; 6/9;  
6/3; 6/4; 9/8; 9/19; 9/21; 8/28; 9/6; 11/8; 11/16;  
12/21; 1/16/65; 1/27/65  
"NINETY THIRD" Co. B refused to do duty 5/4/62; 4/12/63  
Consolidated and attached to McClellans EDGES  
9/2/62; as Well Drilled 9/30/62; 10/17/62; 11/11/62\*  
11/22/62; 3/5/64; 4/4; BRIGADED 4/21/64; 5/11;  
5/15; 5/19/64  
Northrup, Lt 3/ /64  
North Anna River 5/25/64  
Old Point Comfort 4/6/62  
Occoquan Creek beyond Fairfax Sta 6/16/63  
  
Palmer, Brig Genl 3/10/62; 4/27/62  
Paes (Seeseh) 6/30/62  
Patrick, Prov Marsh Genl 10/9/62; 11/11; 12/12\*; 3/30/63; 7/19;  
7/31; 11/5/63

Pamunkey River, Va 5/20/62  
Petersburg, Va 6/17/64  
Phillip's House at Fredericksburg burned 2/15/63  
Pick's Div (formerly Casey's) 5/28/62  
Pictures (McClollan & Barnside 1/25/63  
Hooker 2/4/63; 3/12/63\*  
Hooker, Banks, Butler, Hallock, Batterfield, Phil Kearney,  
Rosecrans and a group of Generals of 1861 Pictures of  
officers 5/18/63  
Plus, Capt Frank 8/20/63; 9/1/63  
Potter, Genl 7/15/64  
Poter, Lt Col 9/11/62  
Pope, Genl 3/11/62; 6/24/62; 9/11/62  
Poolsville Md near Fredericksburg City 6/26/62  
Porter, Genl Andrew 10/9/62  
Promotion: 5/3/62; 5/20; 5/29; 6/1; 11/25/62; 12/4; 12/6; 12/13;  
12/22; 12/26; 3/31/64; 4/5/64 Captain; 4/18; 5/19;  
11/12/64  
Provost Guard 6/27/62; 6/30; 7/4; 7/8  
Provost Marshall of 3rd Div 2nd Corps 5/11/64; 6/19; 6/29  
  
Quackenbush, John 4/6/62 unattached; Capt 1/19/63  
Quartermaster, Aotg 7/6/62; 5/5/63; 6/31; 10/2; 10/12;  
  
Rapidan 9/21/63  
Restertown 7/19/63  
Rifles (Hartfields and Springfields) 4/18/64  
Robertson, Domine 3/1/63; 7/14; 7/19; 7/3/64  
Rockville Md 9/9/62  
Roper's Meeting House (ahead of 5/20/62 ?)  
Rosecrans 10/2/63  
Retch, Col of Gov. Morgan's Staff 7/18/62; 7/31; 8/28  
Rousseau (Son) 6/24/64  
Ruffin (fired first gun at Sumpter) 7/23/62; 7/27/62  
  
Rage, Russell 5/29/62; 6/11/63  
Sanders, Capt 5/31/64  
Scott, Capt 11/8/64  
Schriver, Col Commandant 10/12/63  
Seigel 10/29/62  
Selling, Capt 1/19/63; 1/23; 2/15; 3/10  
Shoulder Straps Staff 3/16/64; 5/19; 5/23;  
Smith, Capt 6/28/63; 7/31; 10/10/64  
~~Risk~~  
Soyneur, Gov. of N. Y. 2/4/63  
Senators Syracuse, Wilkinson & Ashley 7/15/64  
Second NYV 5/24/63  
" Corps (Bristoe Sta) 10/19/63  
Sesek Furlough 6/30/62  
Sheldon, Jno 11/12/64 9th Corps  
" M 9/7/63 (125 N.Y. )  
Signal Corps 5/4/63; 9/7; 9/10  
Sickles, Mrs Dan of Washington 5/5/63

Sickles Corps 5/16/62  
Small pox 3/19/62  
South Mt. Pass 6/28/63; 7/16  
SPECIAL MESSERS 5/19/62; 12/12; 3/3/63; 7/5/63; 7/5/63; 8/29/63;  
10/2; 5/7/64; 10/21/64  
Spurs, Reb 6/29/64  
Spottsylvania C. H. 5/21/64; 5/16; 7/19  
Star from Va. FLAG 5/24/64  
Steamer Bantusket 9/2/62  
Stoneman's Cav. Raid 5/13/63  
Stewart's (Stuart) Cavalry 10/17/62; 5/1/63  
Sumner, General 1/31/63  
" 's Corps 10/29/62; 10/31/62  
Swain, Capt 7/27/63  
SWORD (struck & bent) 5/7/64; 6/19; 7/8

Penalty Team 9/9/62  
Three Mile Sta., Va 4 or 11/6/63  
"THIRD CORPS UNION" 10/21/64 (old 3rd Corps)  
Surreytown, Md near Pa. line 6/30/63  
Trunk 3/28/64  
Tugboats Ajax, Achilles & Peabody 7/31/62  
Two Year troops 5/15/63; 5/27

United States Ford at Fredericksburg 5/15/63

Veterans Corps 10/12/63; 10/18; 10/29; 11/9; 12/22; 12/26;  
Vicksburg 3/13/63; 5/27/63

Warwick, Va 4/6/62 undated; 4/20/62  
Wallace Corps 2/23/64  
Wabash, Ind. (The Eph Wheelers)  
Warren, Lt Col. E 1/12/63; 1/19/63  
" Genl 7/5/63; 7/19; 10/6/64; 12/12/64  
Warrentown, Va 7/19/63; 7/31; 10/19; 10/22 ("Third Camp near here")  
Weldon, R.R. (below Petersburg) 6/24/64  
Westminster, Md 7/5/63; 7/5/63  
Wheeler 3/31/64; 3/28  
White House landing 5/20/62; 5/29/64  
White House (See "Lee Mansion")  
Whitworth battery 7/31/62  
Wilderness 5/19/64  
Williamsburg 5/8/62 ahead of 5/20/62  
Willard, Wally 2/13/63  
Willard, Col 7/19/63  
William, Maj 93rd 9/21/64  
Williams, Seth Adj't Genl 10/18/63; 2/18/63; 7/15/64  
Wilkes, Commodore ~~11/22/62~~ 7/10/62  
Wilson 11/22/62; 7/27/63; 12/15/63  
" Capt Hiram S. of R Co. 3/25/64  
Wilcox - Surgeon 4/12/63  
Winebrenner, Capt of 93rd 10/21/64  
Youngs Mills, Va 4/16/62  
Yorktown 4/6/62; 4/12; 4/20; 4/24  
Zouave Uniform 2/4/63