E. H. Taylor

Civil War Letters
EDWARD FRASER C. TAYLOR

and

Family

Ninth

Child

of

Walter Tailer Taylor

and

Charlotte Dobbin Taylor
Family of Edward Henry Courtney Taylor

d. Aug. 13, 1905
Married first, Lillie R. Stowe b. ? m. Aug. 6, 1866. d. 11-22-1870
Stocton, Calif.

Children by first marriage-
Carrie Bours Taylor, b. 1867 - d. 1902, m. John Thompson
Died in Minneapolis. (b. 9/22/1869) (d. 4/17/1935)

Son born in 1860 and was living at the time of his mother's death. Only mention we have found of him is in the letter the doctor wrote to Uncle Hugh's wife, who was an Aunt to Uncle Ed's wife. Also in a letter to his mother Uncle Hugh told of Lillies death and mentions Carrie his wife was bringing the children to their home.

Carrie Bours Taylor and John Thompson had the following children-
1. Hugh Woodruff Thompson b. 6/30/1896
2. Emily Thompson b. 2/17/1903
3. Irene M. b. 11/2/1901

Hugh Woodruff Thompson married first Corbyss Gibson, 6/30/1923

Their children-
Sada Carolyn Thompson b. 9-27-1927, m. Donald A. Stuart 12/18/49
(b. 2/10/1927)
Emily Ann Thompson, b. 8-28-1932, m. Frank Rodrigues, 1/26/1929
(b. 3/10/1932)

David Craig Thompson, b. May 8, 1935, m. Judith Dombro, 6/7/1957

Their children-
Sada and Don Stuart-
Liza- March 15, 1961

Emily Ann and Frank Rodrigues-
Daniel Hugh, b. Aug. 18, 1956
Josh b. Apr. 28, 1958
Adam David b. Feb. 23, 1961

David Craig Thompson and Judith Dombro-
Jefferson Andrew, b. June 24, 1958
Benjamin Craig, b. Nov. 24, 1959
Oliver Woodruff, b. Sept 9, 1964
Dear Mother,

It is a long time since I have written to you, in which I have greatly neglected my duty. I write now to tell you very sad news - Poor Ned has lost his wife, she died very suddenly last week (Nov. 22) of erysipelas in the face, after a short sickness of only four or five days. I haven't the heart to enter into particulars, but will, instead, enclose a letter Carrie got from the doctor who attended her. We will take the children and he will Poor Ned; it is a terrible blow for him. We will take the children and he will. I went up to the funeral. You will see from the heading of this that we are no longer living in Stockton. Carrie is staying there a few days to pack up the children's clothes and arrange other matters.

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Your affectionate son,

Hugh.

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This letter written from Stockton to Mrs. Hugh W. Taylor by Dr. F. Walton Todd.

Nov. 22, 1870
My dear Mrs. Taylor,

I have just received your welcome P.S. with letter attached, and feel to say to respond to it in as pleasant a frame as I would like to do. Perhaps the telegraph has anticipated the announcement I have to make of the sudden death of Mrs. Lilly Taylor, at 12½ o'clock last night, I say sudden for, although she had been for six days extremely ill of erysipelas, at 2 P.M. of yesterday she was comfortable, had taken with relish some food, the very high fever and thirst had abated, and we all thought her doing remarkably well, considering the severity of the attack. I saw her again at 8½ P.M. and then for the first time discovered unfavorable symptoms but they were not alarming. I requested Mr. T. to step over and ask Dr. Shurtiff to meet which he did. The Doctor concurred with me in thinking that an unfavorable change was going on, and remarked that if there was not some improvement in 48 hours, the case would become desperate, I said much sooner then that doctor, I think that we must arouse her symptoms to new action within 24 hours. We began without delay to administer strong stimulants by the mouth and by enema, but I leave you to judge our surprise and sorrow to find them unavailing to keep her breathing more than three hours and a half, the vital powers had been sustained by me as fully as the nature of the case would admit of and they, as soon as the fever left her gave suddenly away. You can see how rapidly when two physicians who have seen so much of the disease as Dr. and myself were confident that we had some hours, with our most active stimulants, still untried, to arouse her system. I leave you to judge, my friend, how sad I am this morning at this unhappy result. In my mind I am constantly reviewing the case, and for the life of me I cannot see wherein I could have improved the treatment, still my powerlessness disgusts me with a profession the success of which depends upon circumstances beyond my control, so entirely. Poor Mr. Taylor to be left with two little children, in a house which the sunlight has departed from is truly overwhelming and these little ones, so young, will never know a mothers tender care. But the subject is to saddening, still I cannot get away from it. I have not been out this morning to see a patient, several have called for me but I have no heart to go, I will however, go to your brother's to see Fred and will close my letter when I return. I have seen Fred but she is still febrile and languid. I wish to say before closing this melancholy epistle that I would not permit Louise to become so constipated, try enemas first, and when they fail use a Cathartic, and for your feet I can think of nothing better than the remedy you propose - rest - you need this for other reasons, do not presume to far your good health. You may break down. Remember me kindly to Mr. Taylor and give my love to your little fellows, and believe me very truly your friend.

B. Walton Todd
Copies of
Civil War Letters
Written by
Edward Henry Taylor
to his
Mother and sister in Geneva, N. Y.
1861-1864.
Dear Mother

I arrived here very safely on Tuesday evening after a long ride of all of the night before. I got to Niagara Suspension bridge at two o’clock and went two miles on to the Falls where I stayed till six in the evening when I took the train for the Bridge—where I had to wait until half past two for the Great Western train—so I got into Detroit at seven the next morning and was too tired out for I couldn’t sleep in such uncomfortable seats as we had—in Detroit I waited nine long hours for the Olive Branch and could have slept standing if my legs would have held me up—

At last the boat came and we started up, or rather down the river for Trenton, and though the tide was in our favor it took us three hours to get there only fifteen miles! Trenton is a small country village—with four or five stores such as are common in all country villages, where you can buy cooking stoves and tooth-picks and what you may wish. From Trenton a queer ferry boat with parts of two paddle wheels propelled by a lean scrawny vicious little pony—It was the oddest looking craft I ever saw—a tough little Frenchman shouldered my trunk and carried it from the ferry to Mrs. Fox’s house—about as far as our front gate—The house stands upon the river bank—facing it—just opposite from Trenton the road runs in front upon the bank—the view from above almost any part of the house is splendid—and I never saw more beautiful sunsets than we have here—Mrs. Fox met me at the parlor door and welcomed me very pleasantly—she seems to be a perfect lady—She said that they had taken tea but that she would have some prepared for me—I asked to retire to wash and she ordered my trunk upstairs and sent her youngest boy to show me the room—He took me up to the second story into a very prettily furnished room—With a neat green and red carpet on the floor—A large closet with shelves and drawers and a handsome dressing table were in the room. I dressed and went down where I found a sister of Mrs. Fox, who had lived some time in Geneva—also her son who takes care of Mrs. Fox’s farm—a very large one it is—Mrs. Fox poured tea for me and was very kind and pleasant—She is quite handsome and young and the boys are very good—Mrs. Hentig had a multitude of questions to ask about Geneva people she used to know eto. Do you remember Mrs. Hentig? They are related to McCombs and Rees in Geneva—That is Mrs. Fox and Mrs. Hentig are. The boys are very good and I think will learn well—they are under a governess but she was hardly competent to teach though she was highly educated—For instance she had Willie—who is hardly able to read words of two syllables! Studying Geography which tells about "this ferraceous sphere" (111) Mrs. Fox has gone to Detroit to get suitable books—all of which I have given her. She went yesterday and will return to night. There is no post office on this side of the Island—but on the other side of the Island there is a office but as it is more than a mile off we get our letters at Trenton—Mrs. Fox has told me that I can have the boat when I wish and I go over there twice a day to get the mail—a fruitless voyage at present—

It took just twelve dollars to get in to Detroit for I had to get breakfast there as I was so very faint and it took 40 cts more to get to Trenton and 15 cts across the river to Mrs. Fox’s so that I had but 25 cts left—
I bought six postage stamps and a pack of envelopes and have one cent left. I have written three letters this will make the fourth so I can write only two more and then will have to wait for a month before I can afford to write again, I suppose.

I teach six hours a day -- and am at it without ceasing hearing and drilling from the time "school" begins until it closes -- The boys are a little "back" in their studies from the fact from the fact that they have had no good teacher -- They will do better now! It is very tiresome work and I feel rather tired when I am through --

I must stop now -- I hope this can be read if it is worth it -- I write in haste as I expect to hear the Nine o'clock strike in a moment

Remember me to all

Your son

Edward
without my asking. As the thought I
might perhaps need it to buy undecent
and stockings with.
To family go to Detroit might work to
the fair and I shall go with them. It
will cost me only 50 cts. and will be
a good chance to see the city to ad-
vantage for it seems you along and will
take me around.
I received a letter from Maria a
short time since and to say one from
Charlie. You have heard from her I sup-
pose is that about Hugh and the moon
Academy?
I have no more time to write, so I will
bid you a short good bye
Edward.

Write soon and long.
Remember me to all especially to the
Misses Tillinghust. Did Chris come?
Tell Charlie to write soon, and also my
their child. I will try and send some
things in the same shape home by first
month. Let me know if you get these in
charge safe.
Grosse Heilick
Sept 24th 1860

Dear Lottie,

Your letter came some time since and I would have answered it before but that I really couldn’t afford to write until I knew whether I could pay postage. I owe a little to day $15.00 and just as I went over to get it cashed I found Bill’s letter with some change. I sent the change back to day with some more to pay a small bill of three shillings to Linsabough which I forgot. In this you will find twelve dollars ($12.00) for Mr. Broid please hand it to him as soon as you can. I can’t send more yet as I have to buy some underwear and stockings for it is getting quite chilly and the weather changes so. Next month I think I can draw more. I will send more.
There is no temptation to waste money here for there is nothing to buy. Clothing they say is higher than east. I shall have to get a vest for Sunday, white vest, I mean for I have none. The people here don't dress much and when I have on my old brown coat I don't feel shabby one bit. The people in the 'Island' are mostly wealthy and of 'good family' and know it too therefore they have a great contempt of the Codfish aristocr. I know and with a few exceptions have nothing to do with them. Mr. Slocomb and Mr. Tracy's families are exceptions as they are educated and nice people. Mr. Fox is very kind and makes it very pleasant. His nephew Mr. Whitney has taken charge of the farm. He is a nice fellow and has taken me to acquaint many places to introduce me. He was a student once and though not as bright as some yet by no means slow. He can't be beat at a bargain, and get full amount of work out of him.
mind so they will call him a hard look. He never asks them to work harder than he does himself.

There is a handsome place but very cold in winter. The river will for a part of the time be frozen but the most frequently we will have to cross in the boat which will be awful cold work.

The boys are as good as I expected and as soon as have had no trouble nor do I think I will have. They are not for advanced as yet- the two youngest can't read yet and the next is just able. The oldest is the last advanced in inspection of all.

About them both I expected to get the money to pay for them before I started but at the last moment found I could not as it had been promised me but that couldn't be helped. I intended to have seen1 Virginia but hadn't time. I am glad you spoke of it for I would have sent it to you otherwise before now for I would have felt bound to ask for it in that case. The money to stay was offered.
Dear Will,

Your letter was both received about a week after their date and I was glad to hear from you. The reason I did not write you as you thought, but the money draw $15.00 and when I went over to the store to get the check and I found your letter with stamps. So you see they came too late. I sent in the same stamps besides them to you next and I wish you to pay 87¢ etc to Dinsmore which I owe him & forgot to pay. I am not sure about how much it was but you can see I think that is all I owe in Georgia except the money to hurt which I will send in a letter to situate to write. The Resting [illegible] is in the hands of Rainbridge & Barnes & have had it since last term.
P.S. Remember me to all and tell someone to write
I like the place very well—though I trust all
the time. I thought for study. But for it my
clean and don't trust me. I found the night
as an inferior but an equal. The introduction
into all the families she visits and taken some
prairie to do it. She had a "company" at the house
to "bring me out" a few days ago.
The boys are very good—and I get along well with
them as far as though I have kept one in for a
walk this very day for not getting his lessons.
He is somewhat backward in his studies, but I can
fetch him up, I think. Write soon and tell Fitzgibb
if so too as his mother wanted me to write to
them.
Brummell ought to know that he told him— and he said he would get it if him. 

How are the family affairs coming on? Are there any "claims" we must be as saving as possible and not let the money leak away by little. I am when there is little temptation to spend a six shire now and there are in future. 

I can only place to buy and nothing to buy there. I have in a dollar's worth of stuff and shall try most to get out again. I have bought till must between two misunderstand of stock and Eamus then writing as I am in "School". 

Your brother 

Edward
Trenton May 7, 1861

My dear Mother:

I have not written before as I was not settled in some plans I had laid. You probably knew that my situation at Mrs. Fox's was getting to be unbearable until at length I was obliged to give it up. The best thing that ordered next was a berth of 1st Lieutenant in a Volunteer Company which influential friends helped me into. The pay is good -- $100 per month and rations. We will not probably go into service for more than a month from now, tho' the President has ordered the Regiment into quarters. The Company this morning went up to Detroit but I being sick will stay till tomorrow. I have no time to go into particulars now but will write more in a day or two. Tell them to write and direct to Trenton until I write again. We are in the 4th Regiment. Our Company letter is E. I send a paper in which our Company is mentioned to Willie. Tell him to write soon.

Goodbye.

Direct to E. H. Taylor
1st Lieut. Comp. E
4th Mich. Volunteers
Trenton
Mich.

I mentioned being sick. I am quite well this afternoon. I had over-worked myself and brought on congestion. I was well cared for by my lady friends and well nursed. Mrs. Trux and Mrs. Slocum, both of whom I have mentioned before, took care of me. I am now staying at Slocum's. Slocum is worth a million and has furnished the company so far and will until the state makes an appropriation for the military force.
My dear Sister:

Your letter of the last week was duly received. I am sorry that my volunteering has caused any sorrow, but this is a time when anyone with the least spark of patriotism ought to come forward. I would had I not been so fortunate as to secure the place I hold have gone as a private for in my company are several gentlemen of education and wealth who go as privates tho' the most of the company is composed of hard working men. The people in this city -- Detroit -- are very kind in fitting out the men and several good ladies without my knowledge have been fitting me out in underclothes. Several gentlemen have taken upon themselves to present the Capt. and the two Lieutenants with swords and revolvers. And a number of my lady friends -- Mrs. Truax and Mrs. Slocum of Trenton among them have been at work getting me a uniform with some $ Very kind, wasn't it? We will go to Adrian in a few days to join the Regiment. How long we will stay there before going into active service I don't know. Not long I hope.

I am sorry I can't see the family before I go but that is impossible. Give my love to all. Don't fear for my welfare. Being an officer I will be better able to take care of myself than in any other situation. Direct as before to Trenton for I can't tell how long we stay here.

In great haste, with love -- E. B. Taylor
Camp Cameron  
Near Harrisburg, Pa.  
June 30, 1916

My dear Sister:

I don't know why it is but I can't get a letter from any of our family. I have written to you an to those at home several times but got no answer. After I wrote last time I received that cap you mentioned as having sent but which I thought lost. It was very nice but quite fancy.

You will be surprised to hear from me at this place. We came here on last Thursday and tomorrow we leave for Washington by way of Baltimore. We may have a fight in that famous city—who knows? If we do I will write as soon as I can after reaching Washington. But even if I don't write immediately do not be alarmed.

I have resigned in Co. I as Lt. Lieut. on account of disagreement with my Captain who treated me in a scrubby manner and in consequence, he, when the matter was properly laid before the Governor lost his position as Captain, but the vacancy I had created was filled and I was told to go with the regiment to Washington where I would be able to get a Lieutenancy. I have strong friends at work for me such as the General in command of the Michigan forces and the senator from Michigan Chandler. These men are interested in me through Mr. Slocum and Mr. Truax both of whom have spent a great deal for the Company and as they say mostly for my sake.

I am temporarily connected with the Van nominee Co. A.

Direct your letters exactly as follows—

Edward H. Taylor  
Washington, D. C.

Good bye and write soon. Don't be afraid of anything happening in Baltimore.

Harrisburg, June 29th 1916

My dear Sister:

Why have'nt some of you written to me. I have written once to Anna and once to Willie but have not heard from any of you for more than a month.

You will be surprised to hear from me at this place. We left Adrian on Tuesday and reached this place on Thursday where we will lay over till Monday in order to get properly around. On Monday we leave for Washington by way of Baltimore. Some of the men are greatly disappointed because there is little prospect of a fight in passing thru Baltimore. Write and direct your letters to Wash. D. C. and they will be forwarded to the regiment. By the way I resigned in Co I, on account of the Captain and am now going with Co. A. but not connected with it. I mess with them because I know most of the boys and they want me to stay with them. My object in going with them is that I have a promise of a Lieutenancy when I get to Wash. I will tell the particulars in my next which will be from Wash. I have very good times in fact as well as though I still held my office.

Your brother

Edward

c.fom original  
1/3/1955  
Sh.Post

These two letters were in same envelope. Probably written to different sisters. (Emma Post)
Dear Mother, Brothers and Sisters:

Tho' I don't owe anyone a letter this time yet having a little leisure time I will spend it in writing to you that you may know that I am still well. We are as a general thing very busy now in finishing our fort. We have it nearly done now, and two days more will see the guns all in place.

The enemy are throwing up works about four miles from here between Fairfax and Falls Church and between the latter place and this post. The chain of forts from Alexandria and Chain Bridge, of which this fort is one, are considered a sufficient guard in case of attack. It seems strange that with all the boasted power of this nation, a hostile army should lie within six miles of her capital. The whole nation is paralyzed by this rebellion and the people have as yet hardly realized the greatness of the blow. The worst of all is there are too many traitors at home -- 1st those in the interest of the South and Abolitionists who are really seeking every chance to make the breach wider between North and South that a final separation must become necessary. Another thing -- we have a very weak administration. A President "negatively honest" -- a secretary of state who in all things seeks his own elevation -- whose views are such that compromise is beyond hope -- a secretary of war who seems only to be in office to clog business and to tie up with red tape every movement of the Army -- whose greatest efforts are made to put Pennsylvania lawyers and politicians into generals' uniforms -- an 'old foxy' for secretary of the navy -- his slowness a matter of joke. Rebel merchants and English ships running his blockade under his nose; rebel privateers firing spiteful volleys in his very face, Democrats, who constitute the majority of our Army, denouncing at home as traitors, for wishing and demanding as the price of son's and relatives' blood a change in policy and the mode of conducting the war. Under this all, what can we do? Gen. McClellan can and will do much if they will leave him to his own policy if Cameron can content himself with minding his own Department, leaving all fighting to the discretion of one able to command -- our young and brave McClellan. I think McClellan will be the salvation of the nation in this crisis -- neither will he submit to have his hands tied by any politicians. His first demand assuming the command of the "grand Army" was that he should have a free control of his department. The movement of General Butler upon North Carolina has demonstrated the good generalship of McClellan. North Carolina when attacked will feel the need of those troops now in sight of Washington and will recall them -- so will South Carolina, Georgia and other Rebel States. The Confederate Army will be broken up and the South will be whipped in detail and brought to see their innate weakness and inability to stand a war with the great odds pending. All this will happen if foreign powers will not interfere -- perhaps this victory of Butler's on the North Carolina coast will cause them more to respect our Federal loyal States and to think that this nation is really able to suppress a rebellion in its own borders.
What a desolation this war has effected! Miles and miles of country are laid waste. Acres of fine valuable woodland cut down and left to dry in order that they being dried may be burned in piles as they did in Michigan. All this is done that the guns of the forts may have a free range of country -- very few farmers have planted this year and those who did reaped no crop. Some splendid houses left by Secessian owners, sacked by our troops and then burned lend a rather lonely and desolate aspect to the country. One sees no fences for the soldiers have taken down all the farmers best Virginia rails for fuel. If Virginia were long to be the battlefield poverty will be the lot of her population and bankruptcy will be the lot of her financiers. For thirty miles on the road to Fairview on three or four different roads our army encamped a few days before the battle of Bull's Run -- the whole county became almost a desert as if by magic crops destroyed, fences down -- groves, almost perfect in beauty, cut down to give room for Batteries, houses and barns destroyed for the same purpose.

The people had fled before us, thereby showing their Secessian feelings -- the few that remained showed a clinging sauciness which was very wrath inspiring. There may be a large number of Union men in this part of Virginia. I have only seen a small half dozen.

I suppose you have heard a thousand different times that Washington was taken or that a great battle was fighting on the opposite side of the river. We read such news in the few papers which we see, but we don't believe it as we can see Washington and it doesn't look taken and as we know that a fight couldn't well take place on this side of the river without our either hearing or seeing it. A battle may take place inside of ten days -- we expect it in that time and are confident of victory.

You will find little of interest, I fear, in this letter. I only wrote to get an answer.

Please someone write soon. Love to Carrie and the "baby".

Excuse haste and skip all you can't read.

Yours affectionately,

Edward

Direct as before to Washington

P.S. A man just brought in from Picket Guard with his leg shot through by a 'Secessan' Negro! He is doing well now. He was shot last night. I believe it was a sham negro -- a blacked up "Secessan" praiser.
Dear Marie:

Your long expected letter came last evening and, as I hadn't heard from home in an age, it was doubly welcome. You will see from my date that we have moved our camp at Meridian Hill. We are now once more on the "Sacred Soil of Virginia", opposite to Georgetown and a mile from Falls Church. I went out the other day to get a look at the Church but didn't dare to come too close to the Rebel Pickets and had to turn back.

Our camp is very pleasantly situated and is -- most important of all -- healthy. The water is good though a little inconvenient to obtain, as the spring is outside the line of our guards and we have to get a pass to go by. This is a queer country here, but I like it very much indeed. It seems to be all Hill and Valley and the valleys are full of springs, most of them cool and all clear. The houses are built with reference to some nice spring, while the roads have gone wild and seem to try their best to keep away from the houses and to go over the highest hills. Sometimes they take a turn through the woods as if to be more sure of getting away from civilization, and there one can fancy that he is in what in Michigan is called a wood road, for it is fenced on neither side. The people have the regular negro accent and quite a number -- and more than that -- of the old ladies of the F. F. V. are accustomed to smoke a dirty, black, short-stemmed, clay pipe!!! Why the other day I had quite a social smoke with an old lady who lives not far from here. I felt very like offering her my own briar-root pipe but concluded she smoked clay pipes in preference.

Most of the houses are so old that they still stand from mere force of habit -- being surrounded by trees the wind can't get at them to blow them down. Still they look picturesque perched perhaps on the hillside, half hid by the trees, or hid in the valley with only the roof and chimney visible.

We don't expect to have any fighting for some time, but will, likely, soon change our camp to Fort Corcoras, on the River.

In regard to the chance of getting an appointment -- I can say nothing. Col. Woodbury promised me when I resigned my place as Lieut. in Co. I that he would give me the first vacancy. Two have occurred, but are already temporarily filled. I am now better drilled and more able to command a Company than some of our Captains, but I can't tell what will happen until it does happen.

I will be obliged to stop now. In my next I will try and give you a description of camp life -- which isn't like the newspaper description at all.

Goodbye now. Write soon, as it goes hard to get no letters when most of the tent do. I have only had six letters since leaving Mich.

Goodbye -- Ned --
Camp Woodbury, Va.
Monday Aug. 25th 1861

Dear Lottie:

I merely write to stir you up to write to me for you owe me a letter for a long time, and to let you know that I am all well yet.

War news is dull and I have nothing new to tell. You who live far away from the scene of action know more of the affairs going on than we do here. We are absolutely ignorant for we never see the papers unless some one may send one to someone when it goes the rounds and is read with all eagerness. Try and send me a Gazette if you can. I should like to see it.

There is no telling how long before we have to make an advance, but don't be alarmed if you sometimes don't hear from me for a considerable time, for we may be on the march or paper may be lacking (we have no place to keep paper safely and so have to buy in small quantities and the pedlar and sutlers are sometimes nowhere to be found. Or we may write and the Regimental Postmaster may be unable to take our mail to Washington. So you see there is no need of getting alarmed if you don't hear from me.

I have no time to write more and you don't deserve any more tho' I suppose you have enough to do without writing letters.

Charlie says he hears often from you and is improving in writing "love letters" after the pattern Marie gave.

Goodbye

Edwards
Dear Marie:

Yours of Aug. 22nd came last evening. I was very glad to hear from you tho' I did not expect to so soon. Yet it seems to have taken your letter a long time to reach me -- four days from Bethlehem to Washington is too long. Within five days I have written fifteen letters -- (this is the sixteenth). You see I do not always have the opportunity to write and so when I have the chance must do my writing up in a batch as they bake bread. I have no doubt you all worry very much over my safety, but there is little need of that. I am in no more danger in the battlefield than I would be at home. The same power that shields one from danger by his fireside will protect in the battlefield.

Nor must you be troubled if long periods elapse before you hear from me for sometimes we may be on the march and have no means of writing or of sending letters. Or we may not be able to get paper. We have no place to keep any quantity of stationery in any safety and so have to buy of the sutler or of pedlars who may visit the Camp. Sometimes they are away for weeks and of course we are "out". This happened at Fairfax C.H. when some of the boys wrote home on brown wrapping paper and paid five cents for six square inches of it, to those who were so lucky as to possess the article. Letters are often lost. I wrote home from Fairfax C.H. using the leaves of my note book -- that letter never reached home for if it had you would have heard from me by the Tuesday after the battle -- whereas you did not until a week had passed. The latter was only to tell that I was safe, but the folks never got it, or they would have mentioned it. Numbers of letters are constantly lost and there is continued complaint of carelessness on the part of postmasters.

I had quite a time to get this paper this morning -- I went to the sutler and asked for five cents worth of paper. He told me I would have to take a dollar's worth of tickets. You see they have tickets worth five, ten and twenty-five cents each, like the milkman. They will not let these tickets go in less quantities than one dollar's worth payable on the day on which the troops are paid off. Well, I didn't want a dollar's worth of the tickets for if one has them the temptation to spend them in buying tea, sugar, lemons, cakes and such other things is very strong. But say all I could I had to take a dollar to get five cents worth of paper. It is a shame the way the sutler (the authorized pedlar to the reg) charges. Gingerbread for which one cent in Geneva would have been almost too much, he sells at five. Butter which could be bought, so the papers tell, in Michigan for seven he sells for fifty cents a pound. Lemons at ten or twelve cents a piece. He gets his price for he has no opposition -- it is not allowed to sell anything inside the Camp grounds by anyone but the sutler. The boys must have some of these things for Government rations are what they have been used to. There has been a deal of talk in some of the papers of the abuse of soldiers I have seen none at all. Some who are insolent get deserved punishment but very seldom unjustly. An officer dare not abuse his men for he
stands the chance in case he does of losing his commission. The
Lt. Col. of the DeKalb Reb. is under arrest for striking a sick man
in his Reg. You see there is the right to appeal open to the
privates. He can appeal from one Officer to another until it comes
before McClellan. He is sure to get justice if he has been wronged
or will suffer the consequences if he merely complains to make
trouble. Stories of abuse are all lies, at least in part. The
great trouble is the one opposite -- laxity of discipline and the
too great familiarity between officers and men. It makes the
majority of men insolent.

You are mistaken if you think Washington safe. Our army is not one
half what it is believed to be. Our batteries not finished nor all
the guns mounted. The Rebels are certainly and surely moving upon
us. Gen. Beauregard is almost compelled by the politicians of the
South to make a move he perhaps would not advise. Look at Bull's
Run and the work our politicians made in compelling Scott to the
attack. The Southern Army also inflated by victory, and unpaid
demand another victory which will give the C.S.A. government power
to pay up from the spoils of Washington. Gen. Beauregard must move
or lose his Army and that within two weeks. Such is the general view
of the question here, but the newspapers are not allowed to publish
such news but the contrary. They could hold Washington if necessary
and will in their present position. Why? the U.S.A has never been
more than thirty miles into Va. since the war began! I must close
now so goodbye --

Edward

Direct as before
Fort Woodbury Virginia  
Tuesday September 2d 1861

Dear Marie:

Your letter was received last night and having a little spare time I will answer now. Last night I got three letters -- one from you -- one from Charley and one from Hugh and Carrie. You may be sure I was rejoiced at my immense good luck. They are all well at home, I judge from the letters. Hugh talks of getting a place in Racine College. I hope he will tho' the salary is small -- yet there are hard times and money is scarce. There is very little doing in the country just now -- In Michigan wheat is selling for forty cents a bushel and no market at that. I have never known wheat to bring less than 75 cents before. This country is in a bad fix just now and how it will recover I can't see. If our Administration had more stamina matters would stand better, but with a president "negatively honest", a Secretary of War palpably unfit for office he holds, a Secretary of Navy who is of the "old fogy" stamp -- his slowness a matter of joke -- why this blockade is run by Secesh and English ships with perfect impunity and saucy privateers fire spiteful volleys under his very nose. Why "Charleston is blockaded" yet little steamers run in and out with no fear of results for they know that our large vessels can't come as near shore as they can. Yet our efficient Secretary of Naval Affairs sends his small craft to Pensacola and Fort Pickens, the former so strictly guarded by the latter that a skiff couldn't pass out of the harbor. Again our Republican friends mistake the material of our Grand Army if they think they can use them as tools of Abolitionism. To this I lay the want of enthusiasm which really does pervade our Army. The War Department is also to blame for the want of spirit in our Army -- when it gives us leaders in whom we have no trust -- the McDowell's, the Miles and others of the class. Governors of States deserve great blame in giving command of troops and regiments to lawyers and broken down politicians -- whose experience of war is limited to newspaper's war news items. There were many such at Bull's Run and I had the honor of arresting the flight of a Colonel of Pennsylvania troops who left his Reg. and fled from the field of Battle. Late in the afternoon when I had returned to Fairfax thinking all was going well with our troops on the advance I was suddenly startled by the order to "fall in." We took our places in rank and marched out a mile towards Bull's Run and halted for the purpose of stopping the flight of our men. Among the first we stopped was this Col. whom I stopped with my bayonet on his breast in spite of his drawn pistol which he vainly tried in his excitement to fire, but as he forgot to cock his pistol I could afford to laugh at him. I told you how we kept the fugitives back until the crowd became so dense that we were forced to give way to their pressure.
General McClellan is likely to be the salvation of this nation. The movement of Gen. Butler upon the N. Carolina coast is strong evidence of his good sense. By such means he will distract the attention of the enemy before Washington -- cause the governors of those states whose shores are menaced to recall their contingents and so divide and reduce the Confederate Army. Then we can whip them in detail and the war is over. But McClellan never could do this had he not in the start cut loose from all interference of Sec. Cameron.

I didn't think that there were any so foolish as to call our dreadful defeat and shockingly conducted retreat at Bull's Run into a victory -- Indeed the Rebels were retreating but they had fresh troops to replace those leaving the field in disorder. Republican politicians brought on the fight too soon and now would like to cover their fault by brag.

I didn't use your extra sheet of paper as I had a larger one. I will use that for some other letter.

There is no move in camp just now -- we are situated just as before. As tattoo is beating I must close.

Write soon -- Good night.

Edward
Mr. Edward H. Taylor

Dear Sir:

Your first letter and also the last dated Sept. 8th was received; one reason why I did not reply sooner was I have from the first been trying to help you to a better position than you now have; and another reason I have from the Fall of Fort Sumter been actively at work for my country occupied almost a part of the time in that way. We have recruited another company in Trenton for Col. Broadhead Regt. Cavalry. The Regiment is full and the companies are now all in Camp at Horrmanick above Detroit in the River. They have twelve companies of over one hundred men each - their horses are all to be bought in this state and also their full equipment is to be forwarded here and all to be delivered on or before the fifteenth of next month. Mr. Hudson is chaplain. Dr. Nash is assistant surgeon. Ira David (could not read here) in the regiment. George Alexander 1st Lieutenant, William Brewoort 1st Lieutenant, Peter Stagg 2d Lieutenant, George Alvaro and Walter Irwin, from Trenton Buglers, Grenlaw, Campau, Hale and others from Trenton privates --

I was told this morning that the Cavalry Regiment was ordered immediately to Washington as they now are without any horses, arms or clothing. I cannot think it is so, unless it is to use them as Infantry for the present.

And now in regard to yourself again, I saw Mr. Chandler before he went on to Washington. He is now in Washington. He told me he would attend to it and try and get you promoted. Now while there I saw Chandler and Brigadier General Williams together; Williams said to Chandler he could do it and he had better attend to it now while in Washington. Williams said there were vacancies occurring at the time in the 4th Regt. Gen. Williams is to be there soon himself and before he goes I shall try and see Governor Blair and get him awakened to your cause and I think will give you a few steps up the ladder at all events. I shall continue to urge them until they do something as they have promised to do so --

Mrs. Fox has a teacher for her boys now by the name of Ogden. I do not know how she is pleased with him. I do not like him very much. He is very presuming. -- Hentig comes in the store occasionally. Has kept pretty close to the Farm this summer. Alice and Elliot Slocum have gone East to attend School. Alice goes to Miss Willows School at Troy and Elliott to Union College. Mr. Slocum and Family, as well as our own, are always pleased to hear from you. I hope you will try and write often to me and make your letters as lengthy as possible and give particulars of anything you can learn about the war in your vicinity; if you should have any skirmishing or battles, please give me full details if you can possibly get the time. I think many of them would interest the
Public if they were printed in our Detroit Papers. It is good to
criticize some of the action and proceeding of some of the officers
if the thing is not made too personal.

Remember me to Capt. Luce and say to him I would like to hear that
he had received the appointment of Lieut. Col. in his Regt. as that
Post is now vacant. Your Major I do not know but am told he is not
the man for the office of Lieut. Col. — and also say to Capt. Luce
as a request from me to give you all the aid he can for your promotion,
consistent with the position of each of you. I must say I like the
tone and spirit of your letter. As you have enlisted as a soldier
you will do a soldier's duty — I think you have seen your darkest
day. Hope for the future and in the trying hour of battle fight
manfully (should it come) and you will come out victorious and,
believe me, you have a right to hope for a brighter future and it
will come in time and perhaps not very far hence. It may be possible
I may bring about a change in your position very soon, but hope to
be assured that I will do all it is possible for me to do to get you
a command as officer in our Army. You will excuse this hurried
letter. I have a severe headache today and am not in any shape to
write but it is better than no letter and I know you will receive it
as such. I see from the evening paper that the Rebels made an
advance on our Pickets all along the line of the Potomac and particu-
larly at Ball's Cross Roads and that when our soldiers stepped out
to meet them they prefer to fall back. They are trying to call
you out. They have no idea of attacking you in your entrenchments.
They will call you out in the field if possible and get you exposed
to some of their concealed batteries. But let them figure. The
future will grow darker and darker for them — they are to have no
more victories or drive battles.

Yours in haste,

Geo. B. Truax
Dear Mother and All:

I have had no letter from home for a long time, but tho' everyone is owing me a letter I will write again that you may know that I am still in the land of the living.

There is nothing of importance happening here now tho' we are in a state of expectancy. Yet we take things more coolly than the "outsiders" who are, especially the Washington people, in a wonderful twitter. It puts me in mind of the rope walking that took place in Geneva a year or more ago. The rope dancer was fussing and fixing things, and seemed in no haste by the way he tied and untied the same rope over again, now loosening and now tightening this or that grey rope. The crowd gaped and looked on in earnest expectation. Soon they began to "wonder why he didn't begin", "Ehaw, why doesn't he make haste?" etc. When the man had fixed things to suit himself, then he walked his swinging path with success. Yet one guy which he had not tightened one little more made the peril of his journey ten times greater. Just so with McClellan. When he has fixed things to suit himself he will not be long in his journey, difficult tho' it may seem to be, from Washington to Richmond. Let the crowd below, who would rather peril other necks than their own, keep quiet if they want to see the show. "Onward to Richmond" will be the order, when all things are made fast and when the undertaking can be carried out with perfect success. Two months ago the crowd grew so impatient and cried so loud "Why doesn't he walk" that poor McDowell lost his balance and fell into the depths of Bull Run. McClellan is as brave tho' a more prudent and careful rope walker than he.

Yes, and what a strange crowd stood on the hills around Bull Run! When McDowell fell they all cried out "What a fool to fall! Why didn't he guy his cable? He would do better to swing on a rope's end than to walk on one!" Things have changed now, I think.

Nothing of interest has happened lately in Camp or in this neighborhood that I know of. I am much obliged to somebody for two papers this week -- The Gazette and Intelligencer. I was glad to see both for I see few papers and no books.

I must close now for supper is ready. It consists of beef steak!! a rarity, by the way, and tea. We have first rate bread compared to what the papers make out -- "fresh and soft" as the cook says.

Love to all and regards to Miss Mary and Miss Martha.

Affectionately,

Edward
My dear Mother:

I write merely to send you a treasury note or, if I can get it changed, a draft for ten dollars — all I have at present. A soldier's pay is very small at best. If I had more I would gladly send it. Enclosed is also a letter from George B. Truax, Esq., which will explain itself and will show that in enlisting I did not do so in blind enthusiasm but while with a wish to do what little I could for the Union, I had what seemed my own interest in view.

When I enlisted as private into the Army, I did so with the promise of a commission from Gov. Blair, Gen. Williams and of Senator Chandler. Mr. Truax is both wealthy and influential in Michigan. What he can do for me remains to be seen. As much for the hope of being able to do something like my part in the support of the family, as for any other reason, I hope he will succeed. I owe to him the interest which the Gov. of Michigan and Brig. Gen. Williams and Chandler may show in my favor.

When I left Mrs. Fox's it was with a certainty of $100 a month coupled, of course, with the risks of a soldier's life, whether he holds a commission or not. By the villainy of one man I was forced to resign or suffer disgrace. I was in his power — away from friends — (we were in Adrian at that time) no one to advise with but the Col. I chose to resign as the only alternative feeling sure you and all who had a right to criticize my actions would think me right. Granger proved himself subsequently a rascal and was thrown out of the Reg. The Col. promised me a place as soon as one was vacant, if I could afford to wait for that time, at the same time telling me the time would be short. Those whom I could consult, Slocum and Truax as also Brig. Gen. Williams, advised to go with the fourth. I did so and am yet a private with but a few dollars to send home — when so much ought to come from me in the family support.

My position at Mrs. Fox's was by no means pleasant during the latter part of my stay there and I feel sure could she have found a reasonable pretext for dismissing me, she would have done so. When something better offered in the shape of a lieutenantcy I was glad to leave her. That she suddenly turned against me after treating me with all possible attention will be nothing against me when you see from Col. Truax's letter that the personal friends of Mrs. F. are my friends, the Slocum's particularly. Mr. G. B. Slocum did a great deal for me — presented me with a uniform with thirty dollars or more — was intending to buy a sword, etc., when I resigned. He is a very peculiar man, but strange to say thinks Mrs. Fox a very fine woman and me a very fine young man. Tho' as rich as Croesus, he is as odd as an old Dutch farmer — wears one leg of his pants up, the other down. A sharper or shrewder man never lived. His wife I will never forget for her kindness to me when, after the fatigue of recruiting that Co. in Trenton and just before leaving for Detroit, I was taken sick with a sort of ague in the head, produced by exposure to the weather. She took me to her house and she and her brother's wife, Mrs. Truax, nursed me. Most of the time I was as crazy as a loon with a burning fever. Dr. Nash feared brain fever but I came through in a week.
After Mrs. Slocum and Mrs. Truax were so kind to me Mrs. Fox began to put on strangely distant airs towards them. What the Dickens all her I can't find out. When you come to know her, she was really a very shallow woman almost silly in some things. Wouldn't play cards on Fridays but on any other evening of the week she was never more pleased than when playing a game of Euchre!!

If Col. Truax can do anything for me I am sure he will. I hardly know whether to hope from his letter or not. What do you think? If I could leave Camp and go to Washington I might do something with Chandler whom I know and who has promised to do what he can, but after all who can believe a Senator?

All is quiet in Camp and we see nothing of the enemy except while on picket. On Friday day and night and Saturday morning I was on picket and we were fired on several times but the Seccah are miserable shots and fire too high -- all the balls whistled far above our heads. A party of our men went out twice and first time surprised a lurking party of the Rebels who were trying to get up near enough to fire upon our pickets. The next time we stumbled upon a picket party of the enemy and when we summoned them to surrender the rascals fired upon us and cut and ran, leaving blankets, guns, haversacks and knapsacks behind. As they ran we fired, taking a little better aim than they for one of them was seen clapping his hand on his rear but didn't run as the slower on that account. I fired at one and didn't aim quite sure, but hit his cartridge box, which exploded (we were quite near at that time). What a scattering of personal property that fellow did make! Buckler Straps and coat came off while he streaked for dear life. Firing at pickets is certainly barbarous but as they will do it and the woods are full of lurking devils, it is necessary to make a raid into their territory and drive them back. If they want to carry on a guerrilla warfare we are ready and with better hopes of success, for tho' we never have gone out to lurk around and shoot pickets, we have killed three to one of those who follow that practice.

An acting second lieutenant and a private have deserted from this reg. and have just been heard from. If caught they will be shot. I'd rather be shot on picket.

I have heard from Marie quite often since she went back to Bethlehem.

Tell Anne I got her letter and the paper. I was glad to get them. Tell her she need not send any more writing paper as I have got a lot on hand cheap and also a portfolio worth fifty cents, which will answer well to keep my paper in and which I can safely carry during a march.

Tell Fannie to write again. I will answer her last as soon as I can get time.

Goodbye.

Affectionately,

Edward
Miss Lottie D. Taylor

Geneva

Ontario County

New York

Minor's Hill, Va. March 6th, '62

My dear Sister Lottie:

Yours was received last Saturday evening. I was glad to hear you were better of your measles. You had them much as I did, tho' worse, I suppose. I hope Anna will have no serious sickness. I thought she had the measles before. Has Fannie quite recovered from her attack? And Willie, is he to have his turn or not?

I would have written before but have been very busy in making out muster Rolls and company Pay Rolls. It has kept me very busy for some time, but as it saved me from Guard duty and Police work, I was not unwilling. Guard duty is no fun these days as we are having windy wet nights and it is very muddy.

We expect soon to move as the roads are now so far dried up that artillery can move, tho' with difficulty. Orders have been issued to have everything ready. Two days rations were issued extra to be cooked by the Company Cook at short notice for a march. Sixty rounds of cartridge were issued yesterday, cartridge boxes to be filled and the remaining twenty rounds to be packed in the knapsack. They seem determined we shall not lose the fight for want of powder and lead. Yes, we must move soon -- the sooner the better for I want it ended. The Right and Left Wings under General Banks and Hintzelman respectively have moved -- the Left under Hintzelman and McDowell left yesterday. Gen. Smith and Gen. Porter commanding the center must soon close up. Gen. Porter commands our Division. This Division contains three Brigades under General Morell (our Brig. Gen.) Martindale and Butterfield. General Morell's Brigade is composed of the New York Volunteers from Oswego, Syracuse, Utica, etc. -- the Michigan Fourth from Monroe, Marshall, Hillsdale, Adrian and Wayne Co. and South East Michigan generally. The Ninth (Irish) Massachusetts Vol's, is the third Reg. in the Brigade. The Ninth is from Boston. The fourth Reg. in the Brigade is the Sixty Second Pennsylvania Vol's. There are two Batteries in the Brigade, one the West Point Regular Artillery under Capt. and the other the Rhode Island Battery under Capt. . A Cavalry squadron from Pennsylvania completes the force. I mention these things that you may be able from the papers to find our position in a fight and may not uselessly worry over every report of a fight but may know at once whether we were in or not. Gen. Banks will probably advance on Liesburch, N. W. of this while Hintzelman will perhaps take position towards Aquia Cree and south of Fairfax. We, as soon as they have taken positions, must move up and with our left on McDowell's right advance upon the center while Hintzelman and Banks move on the left and right of Manassas. That is the way things look now.
I have no time to write a long letter now. In case of any movement forward I will write as soon as may be, but don't worry if I fail to write for mails will be uncertain. Write when you can -- love to all and to Mother in particular.

Affectionately,

Edward

I am quite well; indeed I never was so rugged as now. Charlie wrote me last week. I will answer him as soon as I possibly can do so.
My dear Mother:

It is some time since I have heard from home and from the irregularity of our mail the chances are that I may wait much longer before I again receive word from home -- Indeed I fear this will be long in reaching you tho' there is much more chance to us of sending than of receiving mail. It might mend matters slightly if letters were directed, now that we have changed our locality, as follows -- "Company A -- 4th Michigan Infantry Gen. Porter's Division, Washington, D.C." Though no longer near Washington our letters will sooner or later be forwarded to our Regt. and it would create less confusion if directed as above since post office clerks knowing the position of Brigades and Divisions might with great reason be ignorant of the whereabouts of the many Regts. of the army.

You will see by my dating that we have at length made a move which looks like work. "On to Richmond" is now the order, and those who have been urging action upon old McClellan will soon be satisfied as they were surprised at the seeming sudden change in the programme. Manassas, taken without a life lost, is no longer the battlefield. McClellan knew its value to us to be nothing, in a military point of view, and so permitted it to remain in Rebel hands until they suddenly got an inkling of his movements and found Manassas to be of no value to them and necessity compelled its evacuation. Then the wisdom of McClellan's long delay becomes apparent in that without sacrifice of life or treasure he now is nearer to Richmond by another path and the disputed gate, Manassas, in our power.

On the 11th of March our Army advanced upon the boasted stronghold and found no enemy. Immediately a large body of the Army of the Potomac was embarked upon transports previously provided for that purpose. These were immediately shoved off to Fortress Monroe and were soon followed by the centre of the Army under Heintzelman, Porter's Division embarked March 21st and reached Fortress Monroe on the Sunday following. Since our arrival Division after Division has followed and except the Army under Banks and a portion of McDowell's command holding Manassas, Vienna, Fairfax, C.H., etc. Very soon we will "on to Richmond", turning their position by moving from east and south instead of as expected from the north-east. The Movement is an unexpected one to the Rebels and takes the croakers all aback. Success can hardly fail to attend our advance and soon victory will end the war.

At present we are camped about four miles from Fortress Monroe and two miles beyond the village of Hampton, which you will remember was burned last summer by the Rebel Gen. Magruder. It was a beautiful place and noted as a pleasant residence. Now blackened ruins and trembling chimney stacks are the witnesses of a black deed. Its inhabitants have sought shelter elsewhere and desolation reigns solitary.
This country is vastly superior in fertility and natural beauty to that which we have left in Fairfax Co. and near Washington. The soil is warmer and richer and lighter and evidence of prosperity is seen on every hand. There are, however, to be seen here and there desolate farms, whose owners have either been turned adrift and houses burned for love of Union when the Rebel flag waved here or perhaps whose owner has left all and embarked in the desperate cause of disunion. We have an approach upon the Union forces. The whole country is truly beautiful with these mournful reminders of war and bloodshed to the contrary notwithstanding.

On Thursday last we went on a reconnaissance in force towards Big Bethel some ten miles north west of here. The enemy on our approach ran away, having about a half hour start of us. It was a tough march for us as we were obliged to go by a circuitous route to camp the same day, reaching here sometime in the evening. You may be sure we were well tired on the march out as well as the return. We went in "quick time."

Friday and Saturday were awful days for us. It rained incessantly from the north east with much wind. We have no tents, only shelter being oil cloths stretched a poles for a roof or, instead of that, pine boughs. Our oil cloths are small and even though we do our very best with oil cloths and boughs, we can make but indifferent shelter when the storm beats. I know that I never passed worse nights than Friday, Saturday and Sunday. The latter night I was on picket and had no shelter at all. Friday night I was wet through and didn't sleep a wink for the cold. All of Saturday I was on duty and was too wet and cold to sleep at night. Sunday morning I slept a little and that in spite of a stream of water trying to run into my mouth. In the afternoon I was detailed for picket and stood post until next morning at ten when just as we were relieved it cleared up. I was so exhausted that I kept good watch I felt as tho in a dream. The third guard from me was shot on his post by a lurking Rebel and except the momentary start at the flash and report of the gun, I was too weary to be moved by the circumstance. The poor fellow belonged to a Massachusetts Regiment, I believe.

I got a letter from Hugh while at Fairfax C.H. and would send it only it got so wet as to fall in pieces. He was well as was Carrie and Baby also. I am glad he is so well pleased. Marie wrote to me a short time before I left Minor's Hill. She also was well. I wish I could hear oftener from home. A letter is of great value to us here.

I still think the war will come to a speedy close. It can't last long, and I long for the time when war will be over and the soldier once more at home. It is a long time since I was there and every day seems to make the time doubly long. Write soon some one.

Love to all.

Your affectionate son

Edward
P.S. Orders have come to march tomorrow -- destination not known. I am glad for every step towards the enemy is one towards home to me. Thus on! March on! McClellan is with us and we all trust him, for he deserves confidence so far.

By the way some have received letters directed Fortress Monroe instead of Washington. Please let someone write me addressing Co, A 4th Mich. Reg. -- Gen. Porter's Division, Fortress Monroe, Va. and at the same time someone else write to the address I gave in the first part of my letter to see which will come soonest. Please excuse the looks of this as I write in the midst of inconveniences too numerous to mention. Respects to the Misses Tillinghaest and to Mrs. Angel. Much love to all.

Edwards
4th Regiment Infantry Michigan Voltigeurs
Colonel D. A. Stockbury
Camp below Yorktown, Va. April 14th, 1862

My dear Sister Lottle:

Your letter of April 6th came yesterday -- I can't say it was welcome for it brought too much bad news. I was quite anxious to hear from home for I had received nothing later than March 7th and heard you were sick. I hope Anna is better now. I felt sure she was sick for else I might have had a letter from her. Fanny too seems ill. I hope not seriously. You indeed must have your hands full, but I hope you are not obliged to overwork yourself. I fear you do and that after being so sick. Oh! I would give anything to be at home or where I could be of some use to you. I feel as tho' I did wrong in coming here tho' the intention was good and there was fair prospect. The step taken, there is no drawing back.

You said nothing of Mother's health so I shall suppose her as well as a multitude of cares will allow. I do hope she does not think me intentionally ungrateful in having done so little for the family support. I would not have enlisted nor felt it right to do so had I not been promised much in the way of promotion -- and the pay of a commissioned officer is large. Fortune seems to have been against me so far tho' there are yet chances. I am now anxious for a termination of the war. What do you think? Can it last long?

You will see by my date that we are before Yorktown where in 1785 Lord Cornwallis surrendered to Washington. We got to Fortress Monroe on Mar. 17th and marched to Hampton Village which the rebel had burned last summer under Hoard. April 3rd we left Hampton for Yorktown where the enemy laid entrenched and reached here April 5th. Since then we have laid under fire of the enemy's guns and are hourly amusing ourselves by dodging shell and shot. Yorktown is not easily to be taken and hard work must come before it falls. The enemy has fortified the whole isthmus between James and York rivers and will be dislodged from one stronghold but to fall back upon another. We are confident of success here and that soon. If Yorktown is captured Richmond goes by the board and may even fall previously.

News has just reached us of the battle in Miss. at Corinth. Luck is the news I like to hear. What a pity Beauregard did not also fall into our hands! The day of reaping with these rascal rebels is near at hand and I only fear that such as are the leaders and head of this wicked and horrid conspiracy may escape the doom -- of death -- of traitors. Their deluded and ignorant followers ought to be allowed to return home in safety but let the others stretch their necks. They know better while the rank and file are ignorant of the greatness of their crime.

The people -- I mean the lower class -- are, as far as I have seen, ignorant beyond measure. Even now none will tell you that "they have read as how the Yankees were trying to drive 'em off their farms and to give them to the Northern soldiers, etc." "that Washburn was a mulatto slave -- escaped!" All believe that the Confederacy have had no reverse in the west and think we are trying to befoul them when we tell them of Forts Henry and Donelson. The women will often stand in the doors and as we pass revile the cowardly Defense of Yankees," the "Mercenary Scoundrels." One woman
claiming to be a lady and possessing some marks of refinement actually wanted to "split upon the U.S. flag!" We offered them no insult and their property was protected, yet such was the return. Gen. McRuder of the Rebel Army burned every house of Union men between Hampton and Yorktown besides burning Hampton together with the old Church which the British spared when they twice burned the Village -- once in the Revolution; and once in 1812-15. You have no idea of the suffering of those who have dared profess Union sentiments in Va. -- death and torture were common and the jails everywhere are crowded with "fories" -- save the mark! After what I have seen I shall never deny that death ought to be the reward of such vile traitors as Jeff Davis, Breckinridge, Beauregard, Johnston, etc., never forgetting McRuder -- Hang them and as high as Maman and let them hang till the wind of Heaven have bleached out the stain of the many crimes -- the murders and ruin they have made and committed! I hate to see any mawkish pity on such a subject. The thousands slain in the cause of the Union at Corinth and Bull Run, at Lexington and Bull's Bluff, at By Bethie whose battlefield I lately passed over, cry out against the authors of the Confederate Conspiracy.

April 15. I have just had a letter from Fannie. I will answer it as soon as I can. The firing of the enemy has been turned upon our gun boats at the mouth of York River and we are enjoying a little rest from the constant explosion of their shell in our neighborhood. One of the men had his knapsack taken the other day by a shell but, strange to say, was not even stunned by the shock. He belonged to our Brigade (64th Penn Reg.) and the same shell passed over our Reg., tearing off a tree-top which killed two of our men. Strong as has been the fire, we have lost but few men in the whole force before York. The enemy's shell mostly fail to explode so unless they hit do no damage. I wouldn't give much for what would be left of our Reg. had their shell been as good as those fired by Capt. Griffin's West Point Battery of this Brigade. Every shell he threw exploded within their works and the first day he succeeded in silencing a battery of three pieces. Night before last he crept up with his battery alone upon a Rebel force engaged upon their breastworks, and before he was perceived opened fire with grape and canister. What a scampering there was! It was about as dazing a thing as has been done for he was in the midst of their forces before he opened and had he not taken them by surprise must have been overpowered.

Day before yesterday while I was on Piquet guard I crawled up close to a large fort on the North of their line and hid behind a clump of pine trees. Pretty soon a body of skirmishers skulked out of the fort and seemed to be trying to creep upon our piquet line unobserved. When they got within good range they opened fire and one round waved a black flag over his head! Our boys returned the fire, and as the Confederates turned and ran I took as good aim as possible for the flag bearer and my ball passed his head but landed in his arm. The same arm that waved the flag. He dropped the flag and ran on a few steps -- then fell and was carried in by his comrades. I wanted to go and get the flag but didn't dare the risk as I was too near the fort to come out openly. So it was I had hardly left my concealment and skulked back to the piquet when I saw them direct a gun there and the shell exploded in the midst of the clump of pines.
The same day a fellow came across the field as cool as possible and we took him for one of our sharpshooters. He came within a few rods -- threw his blanket across the fence, rested his elbow on the top rail and leisurely brought his piece to a level and took deliberate aim at us! Then we discovered who it was and one of our boys firing just before he did spoiled his aim and made him beat a rapid retreat. At the same time if they catch one of our men they abuse and maltreat him and often will murder him. That is what I call cowardice.

If the enemy resist us here long it will result in a fierce battle for they have a force of some ninety or a hundred thousand concentrated there to dispute a passage to Richmond.

I must close as the mail leaves camp soon. Fannie's letter was directed by way of Fortress Monroe and came through in four days -- I see by order of the Postmaster General that letters must be directed to Washington and will be forwarded thence. Since I wrote Porter's Division has been transferred from McDowell's to Renitzelman's Corps.

I will answer Fannie's letter as soon as I can. I have not heard from Marie for a month or more. When you get time, don't fail to write. Love to all and remember me to Mrs. Angell and Richard -- also to Miss Mary and Miss Martha.

Affectionately your Bro.

Edward

If you can, send a paper with an account of the Corinth battle. I receive the paper sent from home (the Intelligence Messenger).
Dear friends at Home:

You must be somewhat surprised at not having heard from me in six weeks -- this I learn from Anna's letter of June 2nd just received. I have written at least five times since leaving Yorktown, but it seems my letters have not gone thro'. In the meantime I have received two letters from home --

After McClellan's splendid bloodless victory at Yorktown this Division was sent via York River to West Point to commence the movement which has, by outgeneraling Johnston, placed our Army in its present favorable position before Richmond. From Richmond by severe and fatiguing marching, over the worst Virginia roads (that is saying a great deal) we gained Cumberland and White House on the Pamunkey River (a branch of York R.) We had on this route constant skirmishing with the enemy. White House you know, is where Washington courted the "Pretty Widow Custises". It is now in possession of the Lee who married into the same family. From Cumberland we went by toilsome circuitous routes to our present position.

Gen. Fitz John Porter's Division has been increased by the addition of a Brigade of Regulars and Tyler's Brigade of Heavy Artillery -- this gives it the dignity of a Corps d'Armee -- while Gen. Morell takes charge of the Division and Col. McCade of the 14th N. Y. Vols commands the Brigade. Our corps is the "Grand Reserve of the Army of the Potomac". Tho' on reserve we are by no means kept idle or out of danger -- on the contrary we have to do all the ordinary work of a reserve and much of such service as it would be impolite to take troops from the front to do -- such was our movement on Hanover CH. Our Division alone was engaged there and conquered after a severe fight and terrible fatiguing march. The result of the Battle of Hanover C.H. proved the Reserve Corps to be good stuff. Tho' Hanover is but eighteen miles in direct line we marched upwards of twenty-five to reach it. From the order in which we marched our Brigade was the last to get into the fight and therefore saw less of it than our other Brigades.

Our Reg. had a fight on its own hook before this Hanover affair. We crossed the Chickahominy above New Bridge and wiped out a Rebel force of three Regts. among them the famous Louisiana 5th ( Tigers). It was a brilliant affair and was highly praised by "Little Mac".

Perhaps you read an account in the NY Herald and Times, in both of which it was mentioned with much accuracy and praise but no exaggeration. McClellan personally in presence of the Reg. thanked Col. Woodbury and the Capt. of Co. A and Co. A (our Company did the principal work). Our Capt. name is Rose. We blushed redder than the rose at such unexpected praise from a General whom we all trust, love, and almost idolize.

We had but little chance of dodging for we were so close that the balls reached us sooner than the report. Besides there were so many of them we hadn't time. At Yorktown it was easy enough to dodge shell fired at long range tho' we stood in danger of the places when it exploded. At Hanover when they opened on us with musketry we were ordered to lie down as soon as the first gun was fired and when
the rascals had emptied their guns, "up and at them" was the word, and secesh hardly waited for us -- they do hate the bayonette beyond measure.

I am more and more convinced that the war must soon end. The news from Halleck is encouraging beyond all I had hoped. Beauregard's famous army is scattered and himself the Will o' the Wisp.
I see by the papers that Lyman Prudin French is appointed a 2nd Lieutenan of Marines. By what influence did he get the position? Was he ever in the Volunteer Service? Has he had any experience of Military affairs? Could you at home bring any influence in my favor for a similar appointment? Marines are drilled like Infantry and are only soldiers on shipboard. After a year’s service in the field I ought to have some knowledge of a soldier’s duty -- I can give the recommendation of my Colonel and Company officers as to fitness and capacity. Is there no one who would be willing to do such a favor to me? It needs but a man of some influence to take in hand and it could be readily done. In one of the letters received from home one of you spoke of trying something of that nature for me -- I wish you would. A year of faithful service in the field ought to give me some shadow of chance, if there is any justice in such matters. I write in great haste and that must be my excuse to the appearance of this. Love to all the family and remember me to all friends -- to the Misses Tillinghast, to Miss Kingsland -- to Mrs. Angell and to Miss Lowthorp -- also to Dr. Wiley and Charley Wiley. I wrote a day or so since to C.F.P. He seems to be working like a beaver to get his farm and home done -- I hope it will be a happy one. He still seems sorry that he didn’t go to war-- tho' I think he took the wisest course.

Your affectionate Brother

Edward

In speaking of an appointment I spoke of Marines alone. If I could get an appointment in the Regular Army as 2nd Lieutenant I should be indifferent whether it were Infantry or Marine.
Before Richmond  
Saturday June 21st 1862

My dear Sister Anna:

Yours of June 15th is just received -- I wrote to Lottie a day or more ago and since then nothing new has transpired. Secesh are a little more active yesterday and today. They are throwing shell into our very camp. Yesterday a number fell into the camp of the 1st Michigan killing one man. We have got so used to shell now after our experience of them at Yorktown, Hanover and several other places that we pay but little attention to them. By the way, you remember I wrote a hasty account of a fight this Regiment had with the "Rebs" across the Chickahominy. Enclosed I sent a scrap referring to the affair taken from one of the N. Y. Herald. It speaks of one man only being killed -- another died of wounds the next day. The statement as to Piper's brother is true for I had it directly from Geo. Spaulding who is his Capt. I also heard the prisoner tell Woodbury how he could have shot him. I send also three lithographs of Gen. McClellan, Gen. Morell (acting Division General) and of Col. Woodbury. They are tolerable likenesses, especially that of Morell -- McClellan wears his whiskers cut differently and that has much changed his appearance -- no picture, however, can give that splendid sharp, piercing eye of his.

If Abolitionists only knew how much they damaged themselves in the eyes of the army by censuring McClellan they would pause before they waked up a storm of resentment, which, on the return of the soldiers to home and civil rights, would sweep them from political position and importance, and would stamp them as traitors of the vilest dye.

I see that Hale has been trying to bring in a bill in the Senate making it legal to enlist negroes as soldiers, putting them on the same footing as white volunteers. Now I speak not only for myself but for nineteen out of twenty in this Co. or Reg. or Army when I say that if that became law we would sooner lay down arms than fight. If such a law passed Hale would hardly dare come near the Army. When we cease to fight for the Union and begin to fight for Negro equality I am ready to lay down arms and will.

I think in the event of the fall of Richmond the war is over provided the north is willing to overlook much of the past year -- "Forgive and Forget" ought to be their motto with the masses of the southern people, and let confiscation only touch their chief leaders. I received a paper from Marie, but no letter. From Hugh I have not heard for four months.

In my letter to Lottie I asked if any effort could be made by you at home to procure for me a commission either in the Marines or in the U. S. Army -- I spoke particularly of the Marines as I thought a position easier secured there than in the Infantry. Our Navy is to be largely increased and after the war will (unlike the Army) suffer but little reduction. Naval officers as well as Army officers are mostly chosen from the schools at West Point and the Naval School while the officers of Marines are more often taken from civil life: therefore, I think one stands a better chance of
gaining a position. Perhaps Dr. Jackson or Dr. Metcalf could lend a little influence in that direction. Could Dr. Wiley? Will you try what can be done, for much may depend on it. A Marine is not expected to be a sailor, you know -- he is merely a soldier on shipboard. As a soldier I have the education and drill necessary. Indeed as a Naval officer I would not do at all for I know nothing of Navigation but as an officer of the Marine Corps of the Army I should as well as the next, if I do say so myself. Please make an effort for me. What influence has Lieut. Swift?

Hoping soon to hear from you, I remain

Your affectionate Brother "Ned"

Appointments in the U. S. service are made by the President or Secretary of War. It needs but a few or even one influential man to represent the fitness of the applicant to the Secretary and the appointment will be made. The fact of one year's service in the field and actual experience of battle might perhaps go some way with the Secretary or President.
Below City Point near Wilson's Bar
4th July '62
Camp Army of Potomac

Dear Mother:

Thro' the mercy of a kind God I have been spared thro' divers dangers and sufferings -- I can't now explain the meaning of various movements made by our Army within the past week except on the ground that as McDowell failed to make a junction with us at Hanover, C.H., we unable to keep up our long line of communication with the White House and were forced to change front and rest our rear upon the James River. This movement began on the 26th Ult. in a heavy battle at Mechanicsville on the Chickahominy. We were in this battle but our loss was comparatively small (perhaps 40). From Mechanicsville we on the right were ordered to fall back on to a strong position at Gaines Hill (or Mill's). Our loss at this battle was about 100. Our next position was a strong one near the James River. Here we lost severely -- our Colonel is killed, also two Captains, four or five Lieutenants are wounded and perhaps prisoners. 350 is our probable loss in the Reg. But we held our own and we have the satisfaction of knowing that as Gen. Fitz John Porter said, "The fourth saved the Army on the 1st of July." The Army fought well and not a day has passed for the past week but a portion has been hotly engaged -- one Division covering the rear as the others fell back. In every engagement we were victorious but unable to pursue the advantage or to hold the position longer than sufficient for a cover to the retreat. Our new position acquired and some sorely needed reinforcements having come, the Army is now advancing while the Enemy is being taken in the rear as was the programme.

I have no time for particulars. I merely write to say that I, thank God, am safe and unharmed. There is some talk of our Reg. having some rest and time for recruiting -- I hope it may be so. We still trust McClellan. I write in haste. Lottie's letter received. Will soon answer. Love to all.

Pray for and with your soldier son that he may be saved from a death of the soul if not of the body.

Affectionately,

E. H. Taylor
My dear Sister:

Your letters of July 8th and 11th were both received last night -- I still desire to obtain the position I wrote of. I would greatly prefer it to the Volunteer service even if I stood a chance in the latter -- "Kissing goes by favor". Many of our officers were wounded and retain their rank, leaving but four actual vacancies in the list of Commissions. These will be filled by those who can make "the most favor with Gov. Blair." There is much talk of his having appointed certain gentlemen into Commissions in the Reg. who have so far no knowledge of drill or war. I fear it is so, for the evidence is strong. To us who have seen service, such a proceeding would be unendurable almost. Indeed by all means help me in this matter. I see no light ahead here and no prospect of bettering myself. I sent Capt. Randolph's paper. I was sorry he was so poor a scholar and penman -- such things have an influence. You know we lost our Colonel who was killed on the field July 1st. There never was a braver or better officer. As a man I can say less. Without him the Regiment will sink to insignificance -- our Lt. Col. can never fill his place -- I hear he has resigned -- the terrible effect of our movement together with a slight wound having made him too unwell to remain. He is now home. Our Major went crazy from coup de soleil some six weeks since -- hence Capt. Randolph is in Command as Col. G A lost its Capt. at the same time Col. Woodbury was killed. Captain Rose was a brave man and a good officer. Our Reg. went into the field on June 26th 590 in number. On the night of July 1st we mustered but 330 -- the remainder killed, wounded, and missing. None of the missing have yet turned up, therefore we are forced to count them as killed or prisoners or wounded and in the hands of Confederate forces. Before going into the action at Gaines' Mills our army piled knapsacks by Regts. in the rear. When there seemed great prospect of our being overwhelmed an order was given to burn them, so that when we did fall back, lo! our knapsacks were no more, and a soldier's knapsack contains his all. Thus it came that during those ever memorable six days of heavy fighting and forced marching we were without shelter and without blankets or change of shirts -- in short, we had nothing but our clothes upon our backs -- not even a great coat but a simple blouse or fatigue sack. Part of the time the weather was awful: severe rain fell for three days; the ground was low and swampy -- the nights cold and chilly -- with fighting for three days and three days and parts of six nights spent in fatiguing marching -- half of the little remnant of our Regiment in prostrate with sickness. I am still suffering from the effects of over-exertion and very weak -- do no duty and am under medical treatment, but thank God! am out of hospital nor expect to go there. Rest and quiet is all I need and am likely to get these, I think. If I were only at home I should soon be better and would soon forget to feel unwell. We are not yet provided with tents but have received blankets and are quartered in a shady wood.
In regard to our recent movement my opinion is unchanged. The worst form of treason -- the blackest guilt, lies at the doors of those who refused McClellan's call for reinforcements. If they could not cooperate with him from the north of Richmond by way of Hanover C.H. why did they not send men by way of White House? The ruin of McClellan was a resolved fact to the Abolition faction -- such is my settled conviction. Look at the debates on the use of White House as hospital -- a poorly ventilated ill contrived house not fit to hold thirty patients. Thus to wrangle over to the injury of our General when the fate of an army was depending! Does history show such guilt heretofore? All this time our sick were under the shelter of large hospital tents -- cool and convenient -- better in this climate than any house and then we had plenty of large tents. They only wished to injure McClellan by making it seem he was negligent of his sick and wounded. When his movements are not interfered with by Abolition Congress the sick arrangements have been almost perfect for so large an army. Now it is different for in moving we lost much in the means of taking care of sick and wounded and the number of sick and wounded is quadrupled. But whose fault is it we moved? Truth answers -- "Traitors under the name of Abolitionists." Such are my candid opinions. What I state as fact is fact, for I state that I saw and know and not the word of others only. The whole army knows these things and deep is the curse heaped on the heads of those who had nigh ruined us by designed neglect. We trust McClellan still (that gulls and piques the Sumners, Chandlers and Hales of our petty congress) and we believe Lincoln trusts him too. Yet we puzzle that he keeps such a vile humbug in power as Edwin M. Stanton -- yes, our hope is still in Lincoln and McClellan, under God. We believe them true and to be working together -- time will show -- but why is Stanton kept in power? And now when the President is calling for men what does Congress do? Why wrangle if it shall include in the Militia Bill the negroes and free his child, wife, and family for military service. In case this were to pass there will be two results -- one remote, the other more immediate. The latter -- What white man would sign an enlistment roll after a negro? Call it prejudice or what not, such is the fact -- I answer one man would sign where ten would have signed. Again I know of no plan where a Regiment of full blacks has been in service except in San Domingo. They are the poorest soldiers. Wherever they have been tried they have proven worse than useless. It is a mistake to say they were employed with success in the Revolution in 181 or in the Mexican War. In the latter they proved a great failure and laughing stock.

But for the sake of argument admit that they do make tolerable soldiers ancillary to the more remote result of such proceeding on our part. All the connection of the black soldier being freed by his service in any capacity in our army, the longer the war is continued the greater number of freed men there will be and in the end all blacks in the invaded states will be affected, for abolitionists will procure the employment of every black possible and this frees his family. Chandler and Wade admit this to be intended a death blow to the "sum of villains" Slavery. Now what are we fighting for? The freedom of the Negro or the integrity of the Union? The latter is all I enlisted for. That is all Lincoln claims to have in view and even in his proclamation offering to aid those states desiring to free themselves of slavery he holds forth the opinion that as a state institution it is none of our business only as far as our own state is concerned. Such has always been my opinion --
I see no reason to change it. Such was father's opinion. I honor it. The avowed object of the war was to restore the Union as it was with the Constitution as it is. Now the moment the War is put on an abolition footing all is changed. We are warring for a "New Union and a 'Purged' Constitution." In the first case we of the Union party are opposing traitors who are striving to destroy a just government and to pull down a glorious Union. In the latter we are waging an unjust, unholy war against a people united and brave striving to maintain their freedom. In such a war we could not conquer — perhaps Dr. Metcalf may have seen the future when he spoke — Quen sabe? No! The moment the war becomes an abolition war I cease to be a soldier bearing arms against the South. The future is in the hands of God alone. Will he permit these vile traitors of our own section to rule for our further punishment? I hope and pray not. If it be not the intention to make abolition the issue why is every effort made by these men render reconstruction impossible? In the name of wonder do they think the Union will be restored by blood alone or does not common sense tell them that forgiveness must be exercised? I saw a splendid article on that in the Gospel Messenger in the form of a letter from an Army Chaplain in our service. All the hard fighting in the world with its loss of blood and treasure cannot reform the Union if general confiscation, abolitionism, and rapine by law. The one counteracts the other — and as we fight and suffer to conquer, Congress in our rear undoes all we do and we look back to see all undone and the end of all our efforts negatory and the lives of blood in the balance outweighing more and more the chance of reconstruction. Where will the end be? I see a dark future. I think I see foreign intervention looming up. Let it come. I can fight a foreign enemy. If this war is one for the Union I am content. When I see it made an abolition crusade, if still in the invading army I will leave either by fair or foul means. For this reason also I would go into Marine service in preference to the vols. Their would be more honorable chance of leaving the service.
"Berkeley" Harrison's Land'g. Va.
August 8th, 1862

My dear Sister Lottie:

Your welcome letter of the 4th came last evening. Have no fear but your letters are as welcome as any I could receive and as interesting for generally they contain most news of little matters such as the others forget to write. The only fault I find is you write so seldom. The small matters around home are what I like to hear about and the others seem to forget to write of them or think them unworthy of their pen or their I must know them by intuition--so I would have you write often if possible. Anna delights in politics. Will writes but seldom and Marie is not long at home, and so I have only your and Fannie's letters to keep me posted in the minutiae of home matters. Indeed half the time I don't know there is such a place as Geneva, I hear so little of what is going on there. And in your last letter even you were guilty of a very provoking thing along with Will and Anna. In one place you say: "I believe Willie and Anna have told you all the news of Company raising here, etc." Anna supposes that Willie and Lottie have told all that is to be said, etc. Looking in Willie's letter I find nothing about the Co's. whatever! How I was anxious to hear about that very subject. I judge, however, from all the letters that as yet you have made no effort in the direction I indicated in my last. I am sorry, for tho' as Will says the officers are already recruiting for the Co's, they are inexperienced and Col. Shirrell might be willing to make a vacancy for one having claims to a little military experience gained in fourteen months service and in seven battles. His personal influence could procure the appointment of such officers as pleased him, and I wished to know if that influence could be worked upon in my favor. I fear it is too late now, and the opportunity, if there was one, is lost. In my last I wished to urge this effort upon you that in case the effort of Dr. Jackson failed there would be something else to fall back upon. I must have failed intelligibly to explain my meaning.

You all seem to have the idea that I can get home on furlough of leave of absence. Impossible--no furloughs are granted to privates at all unless they be sick and a change of climate be necessary to a restoration to health, and then the difficulty is great. I can not get home on a discharge, nor can I get a discharge except thro' a commission. The obtaining a commission would procure a discharge from this Regiment--in no other way can I get home--and my chances of this are but very small I fear. Is there no one but Dr. Jackson who could help me in regard to the Marines? I fear to leave it all in one man's hands. Combined influence goes a great ways farther than any one man's.

No, I am sorry to say there is no chance of my getting home except the small one of success thro' your efforts at home. I am sorry Mother was disappointed in not welcoming me home and am sorry that spoiled her intended visit. I wonder how she got the idea of my coming home. I never hinted at such a thing. I hope at least I may get home in time to be present at your marriage. I should like it much, but fear not.
You will have a comfortable snug house judging from the plan -- Charlie told me in his last letter that it was almost finished. At any rate when I do get out of this service I will come and see you there and patronize my little nephew Charlie and tell him of the war.

I am sorry to hear of Mrs. Angell being sick. I hope she may be better now. Remember me to her and to Mrs. Kingsland and family. Dr. Potter didn't resign until he was forced to. I happen to have been alongside of the 50th several times and know a thing or two. He got drunk too often and the Hospital Steward (Sain Folwell) was obliged to conceal the brandy of the Hospital from him. Gilbert was little thought of in the Regt. Did you know that Will Folwell was a Lieutenant in the 50th? I have seen him several times -- first at the siege of York where I unexpectedly met him. Since then he has looked me up once or twice and I him.

It is strange so many can be at home when the orders are so strict against it, unless they are there by false pretense and liable to punishment if they are not soon back to their Regiments.

I see they intend to draft on the 15th. Will will be exempted, being a student, but he ought to file his claim to exemption as soon as possible.

I now have to close for really I have nothing of which to write. Remember me to Miss Mary and Miss Martha and to all my friends. Write soon as possible and have the others do the same.

Your affectionate brother

Edward
My dear Sister Lottie:

I take advantage of a few days quiet in Camp to "drop a line" (answ'ng for an answer, you see) -- I have not heard from home for a long time except thro' a letter Capt. French received making inquiry after me. I have written at Minor's Hill, also at Falle Church, which letters I presume you have received by this. Since my last I have again been amid the dire terror and destruction of battle. Fortunately I am still uninjured -- our Corps being held on reserve at the battle of South Mountain and Antietam took but little active part in them. Last Friday, however, the 4th had a battle all to itself in which, as in a similar affair on the Chickahominy last May "the Regt. Covered itself with glory." We crossed the Potomac at this point in the face of a severe fire of grape and cannister and in spite of the destructive fire of the enemy's sharp shooters who lined the opposite banks. The river here is full sixty rods wide and in places up to our chins (for we were ignorant of the regular ford), the current rapid -- tho' our guns and ammunition were wet and useless, yet on the boys went struggling thro' the water over the uneven bottom and charging up the opposite steep drove the enemy and captured a fine battery of brass twelve pounders. Night prevented pursuit and after making our captures secure we recrossed the river and returned to our Division amid the cheers of the army of these parts. If I were at home or even if I had time now I would tell of a rather thrilling adventure that befell me on this occasion. When I do get home look out for "yarns" -- I have a deal of the material ready to spin at that hoped for time.

Next morning we again crossed the river finding no enemy to oppose as and after completing the work of the night before and capturing a few lurking prisoners we returned to our present camp. General Martindale's Brigade took our place across the river. We were hardly settled in Camp before we were roused by a heavy firing in the direction of the River. Falling in, we were marched in that direction when we began to meet large numbers of the 118th Pa. Vols. without guns, hats, or knapsacks -- in fact, completely panic stricken. It appeared that after Martindale had crossed the enemy appeared in some small force and the 119th after giving and receiving a fire broke and ran. Of course they were pursued and falling back on the remaining force confusion ensued. Taking advantage of this the enemy drove the whole of our force (2000) across the river capturing near 200 of the 118th (a new Pa. Regt.). They were again obliged to call upon this (Griffin's) Brigade to stem the tide and now we repossess the opposite bank of the river and "all is quiet along the Potomac."

Gen. Pope was pleased to call Porter's Corps "demoralized"; in fact, he said so of the whole of the Peninsular Army. How true and just he was these last battles in Maryland will show. Under him any army of the size of ours would seem demoralized, for to keep up the tone of an army requires more genius and head than he possessed. At the head of a small force he would do, but not at the head of this army nor with such an enemy as either Jackson or Lee. He was outwitted and befuddled and was unable to mass or deploy the force at his command. Although he vainly tries to put the blame of his
disasters upon Porter and even upon Griffin, had it not been for both the latter, their men worn out by fatigue of march and want of food, sleep, shelter and even clothing, and with Regts. scarcely numbering two hundred men each, Pope's army would never have extricated itself from its many perils.

With this apology of a letter I must close for being on guard I lack time.

By the way, I saw Jimmie Morton at Minor's Hill. He is in the 4th NY Heavy Artillery ('Col. Doubleday's) stationed at Chain Bridge -- he is now clerk to the adjutant. I was very glad to see him indeed. He was well and in good spirits. Much grown since I last saw him.

And among the pleasant surprises one sometimes meets with was the meeting with Arend Van Der Veen a few days since. He is Hospital Steward in the 8th Mich. We had a good time talking of old times. Write soon. Direct to Morell's Brigade, Porter's Corps.

Affectionately,

Edward
My dear Sister Marie:

It is now quite a time since I have either heard from you or have written to you. The first is not my fault and the latter I take the first opportunity to remedy. Until yesterday I was unable to write, not having the conveniences, and yesterday was a busy day to me, so today can only spare me a few moments -- the remainder devoted to my country (!!!)

Yesterday I was detailed as Clerk or Secretary or Scribe to these Head Quarters -- whether temporarily or permanently I don't at present know. If permanently it will be a good thing inasmuch as I shall fare as well as need be and will earn a little extra pay, no small consideration in these times. My duties here are tolerably easy at times tho' sometimes I shall have my hands full -- at least as long as I stay here I shall have the chance of writing more frequently than heretofore.

That portion of the Army lying in these parts is doing nothing indicative of a forward move. We are resting on our oars -- how long this will continue I have no idea. Did you read in the paper an account of the "brilliant charge" of the 4th Mich. across the Potomac? It was a rough job for the water was deep, ran swift and the "Rebs" were thick on the other side. Still the boys never behaved better or seemed more heedless of danger. To me it seemed the most desperate place I was ever in and I never expected to come out alive.

Indeed I am particularly fortunate, having been in nine battles so far and having received not even a scratch. At Malvern Hill I was struck by a spent ball but it only numbed my arm for a minute or so. I got a letter from home day before yesterday -- all were well. They said they had not heard from you in some time. I suppose you know that Charlie Post has enlisted in the 55th Michigan Volts? I heard it first from Arend Van Der Veen whom I unexpectedly met with a week since. I was sorry to hear of Charlie having enlisted -- Poor Lottie! "Hope deferred maketh the heart sick."

Arend is Hospital Steward in the 8th Mich. Infty -- Otto Doesburg is in the same Regt. but was sick (?) in Washington when I went over to the Regt. Arend says Otto has played sick or found some other excuse to keep out of danger during every battle in which the 8th has taken part. Generally the way with those who make such a boast of valor.

A batch of orders has just come in and I must turn my attention to the condition of the Army.

In haste but with much love

I remain Yours Affectionately

Edward

Write soon and I will promise a faithful answer --
My dear Sister:

The Army of the Potomac has just returned from its own funeral, and I write with the booming of their death knell still sounding in my ears.

This morning it was announced that McC. was relieved of his command and the Reg. was ordered forward and every arrangement made to receive him for the last time. The blow came unexpectedly and struck consternation among us all. Many a poor soldier of the old Army cried at the announcement and when he rode along the lines looking even more splendid than ever, tho' sad, very sad.

Well might he look sad to leave behind him those true, tried friends, the Army of the Potomac -- men who had suffered, endured every fatigue and hardship, with him and whom he had watched over and even organized. In the bitterness of grief the Army shed tears and vowed deep vengeance upon those who would destroy McClellan and us thro' him. Hope, Faith, Courage are gone with him, for we all clearly see that patriotism no longer rules but fanaticism. The soldier is sacrificed to the politician. Woe! Woe! Woe! What is to be the end?

Is it Fremont and a dictatorship they aim at? Let them beware. McClellan's Army is still in existence and can bear but little more of such usage. A terrible day of reckoning will come -- I saw that today when strong men laid down and wept in anger and grief. None but the new, green troops now are cheerful -- they, new from home, are full of the miserable prejudice which has contaminated every one North -- the prejudice against McClellan. In their folly they think him slow and inactive -- they who never saw the enemy and never a fight.

People North might think it very easy to make a winter campaign with an army half clothed and half fed, but let them try it -- before they blow. A November campaign means death and suffering from exposure, when under the most favorable circumstances. And the people forced us to move when one half the men are shoeless and many without blankets and some without coats thicker than an ordinary dress coat and many (Porter's Corps or rather now Hollers) with mere blouses as thick as a heavy woolen shirt.

One could wish the Army turned loose upon the North for there are our worst enemies.

As ever with love to all.

E. H. Taylor
Head Qrs. 1st Division, 5th Army Corps.
Camp near Hartwood, Va. Nov. 20, '62

My dear Mother:

I am owing someone at home a letter but whom I can't say, so I will repay by writing one to you.

I am still quite well thro' all the hardships and exposures of this very severe campaign. I am, indeed, somewhat better situated than I was during the other campaigns in which I have taken part, and much better off than a vast many of the Army now. You probably saw in the papers an account of the removal of Gen. Fitz- John Porter from the command of the 5th Army Corps. Gen. Porter was a brave officer and, I believe, a good soldier. His removal, coming so soon after McClellan's, made but little noise.

Porter's removal made a vacancy in the command of the Corps which Gen. Hooker was appointed to fill. Gen. Morell had before this been assigned to a command on the upper Potomac leaving a vacancy in the command of the Division, which was filled by the appointment of Gen. Butterfield. A few days since the Army of the Potomac was divided into three "Grand Divisions" composed of two or more Corps each: Gen. Sumner was given the Right, Gen. Franklin the Left, and Gen. Hooker was given the Centre composed of the 3rd and 5th Corps. Gen. Hooker's appointment to the "Grand Centre Division" made a vacancy in the Corps command. Gen. Butterfield being then the senior Division Commander was given the Corps and the command of the 1st Division came upon Gen. Griffin who was senior Brigadier.

When Gen. Griffin got his appointment I had been a month in his Brigade office, and having given good satisfactions, his Adjutant, Lieut. Ross offered me the place of Clerk at Division Hd. Q., and this to the exclusion of a number of more experienced clerks. My duties are very light, tho' somewhat responsible.

There are four of us clerks and we "mess" together having a cook detailed for our special use. To be sure we have nothing but soldier's rations to cook, but it is something not to have to do one's own cooking.

We have been on the march for several days past and now are some seven miles from the City of Fredericksburg. This is old ground to me for I was here last summer. When last I wrote I was in the vicinity of Warrenton.

I hardly know what to say of our present movement. We seem to be advancing but at the same time we are dropping communication in the rear and opening new lines.

As usual I am writing in haste. Someone spoke of numbering letters. I will begin with this as "No. 1."

Love to All

Affectionately

Edward
Head Quarters 1st Div.
5th Army Corps
Camp near Falmouth, Va. Nov. 27,

My dear Sister:

Today is "Thanksgiving" Day thru the Northern States, I suppose. It is three years now since I spent Thanksgiving at home, and I wonder how long it will be, before I shall pass another by the Home fireside. The war seem as far from a close as ever and no one knows when or what the end will be. I have lost all faith of successful termination of the struggle. How can we succeed when more trickster politicians control the movements of our EEE and dictate when and how they must move? McClellan is removed because he failed to move whereW Hallick desires. The Army then being without tents, short blankets and everything necessary. I know these things are wanting and the Quartermaster Dept., could get no adequate supplies from the authoities in Washington. Again, why did they wait to remove him till he had again brought the Army into Virginia. His offence was of a much older date than his removal. Did'nt Lincoln fear if he were removed the New York elections the election would prove disastrous to Wadsworth? And have we now the assurance that Burnside will be supported by the Administration and that his appointment is not a cover to something further? Is he not a meer temporary appointment and is not Fremont in the mind of the Republican Party? I fear so. I have no faith now.

What for dinner did you have today? We had beef soup, pan cakes, fried cracken, fresh beef, soft bread and coffee. What do you think of that? High living for a soldier I tell you. I am quite well now and but Few being a little homesick now doing quite well.

Write soon. Love to all. Remember me to Misses Tillinghast and to Mrs. Angell and to the Kingslands.

Affectionately,

Ned.

C from the original
1/3/1955
Erma H. Post
Soldier's Letter
CH Ross
Lt. A.D.C. & a.a.a. G
1st Division
5th Corps

Miss Lottie D. Taylor

Geneva
Ontario County
New York

Box 423

Head Quarters 1st. Division
5th Army Corps
Camp near Falmouth, Va. Nov. 29

My dear Sister Lottie:

In our office work we make a great many half sheets of paper which we fold as this is and make note paper of. As we have many notes and official letters to write they come very useful. I was folding up my half sheets tonight and they looked so tempting I was forced to begin a letter to someone. In selecting someone to write to, I thought of you. You are indebted to me, I think, for one letter, but I suppose you find but little time for writing.

I have nothing to write of tonight -- there is no news on any subject -- everything is dull -- nothing that looks like movement at all -- it looks strangely like, as tho' we had failed in our Campaign so far. Who's to blame? We are here stopped for supplies! Why don't the people make a fuss now? Was there any more policy in fitting out the army here, with the enemy in our rear and threatening Washington, than to refit in the vicinity of Harper's Ferry? "I can't see it", can you? Yet for wishing to do the latter was McClellan sacrificed or rather was he sacrificed to the people north and to the Abolition party.

O, we soldiers in the army can see a thing or two if we are only to obey our superiors. Burnside isn't to blame -- he means all right, I think. He was put in command of an army, which had been forced to move unprepared, and he moved as far as he could, but at length found he could not go ahead without shoes, socks and shirts and tents and overcoats and pants and coats -- and above all not without rations. Within the week the troops have been two days without rations. There is plenty in Washington, but "red tape" was in the way, and no depots had been arranged at Aquia Creek. You see the Department in Washington can only be approached in a certain way and that way is a roundabout one.

I wonder if this war is to continue thro' another year. A year ago I had strong hopes of being home by this time. What will the year coming bring forth?

Write soon. Give my love to all and believe me

Yours affectionate bro.
Dear Brother:

Yours was received some time since and would have been answered before, but that I have been very busy and because I expected certainly to be able to be in Geneva before this on my way to Michigan and intended to go by way of Troy. I have been, however, disappointed in this, at least, for the present. We are having miserable weather now, cold frosty nights, and cold damp windy days. Mud, also abominable. You can imagine the pleasure of camp life under such circumstances. Our tents hardly serve to shed the beating rain and are easily penetrated by the cold winds.

What they intend to do with this army is a mystery to me. Even now artillery can be moved with difficulty and during the winter the difficulty will be increased for the frosts will not be certain and severe enough to make these worst of all roads passable. There is some talk of this Reg. going on another expedition and some talk of going to Missouri. But there is nothing reliable.

You will excuse the looks of this as I write in haste and it is too cold to hold a pen. Love to Carrie and the baby. By the way, I got your photographs. I thank you for them. When I can I will send you mine. The baby looks all that she has been described, I should like much to see my little niece.

Your affectionate Bro. Edward
My dear Mother:

I have but a word to write. A battle is going on and our Div. is just going in. Our troops are in Fredericksburg and are fighting in the streets. This is the third day of the battle. How the scales will turn can hardly be told yet. We have lost heavily and have a hard position to gain. We hope for the best. I never felt less like a fight than now. I expect the Div. will take it tomorrow.

Love to All,

Edward
Head Quarters 1st Division
5th Army Corps
Camp near Falmouth, Va. Jan. 7, '63

My dear brother Will:

I had headed this letter intending to address it to a female of the genus young lady, but the receipt of yours of Dec. 29th dissipated the idea, and I write to you first tho' guilty thereby of being ungallant.

The tobacco was received and many thanks for it -- "Killing Which" is not plentiful in the army of the Potomac. I am only a moderate smoker but I require good tobacco when I do smoke.

My Christmas dinner was a sumptuous one for a soldier -- roast beef done to a turn -- baked beans (a dish in which "our cook" excels), potatoes, jam, biscuit (and light ones too), butter and a dessert of pie. What do you think of that "bill of fare?" Good for a soldier. You see the Division Quarter Master and the other Staff Officers looking on us with favor assisted us in procuring the material for a Christmas dinner -- Weeden (the Jr. Mr.) gave us as his Christmas gift $5.00 to be laid out in a dinner. We didn't find much chance of spending it, there being no market. So it has served us in buying some luxuries for the mess. On New Year's Day we had turkey (III) and potato and biscuit and pie. So you see I wasn't so badly off as one might think. You may think potato and biscuit are nothing great, but with us they are great things. Indeed I have no cause to complain of my present living -- if all soldiers lived as well nobody ought to complain. Whenever we can get yeast powder or saleratus and soda, we have bread and biscuit in place of "hard tack". We have a good cook, an old steam boat cook.

When we get paid I shall want you to send me some things -- as dried fruit, corn starch, farina, saleratus and soda, and handkerchiefs etc. I will write and send the money when I get paid.

So you are deep in College politics! It would seem as if the old plan of consolidating secret societies was still pursued on the part of Pres. Jackson. He did the same thing by Boswell (Charley) in my Class. Societies are the ruin of a college. The Literary Societies lose all their use and interest owing to the division A.D.C., E. C. and O.D.X. produce. Have you joined any society?

I agree with you about the wars -- we are very nearly "played out" as a nation -- What will the next congress do? -- Can they save us?

Gen. Griffin is absent in Washington so we clerks are taking it easy -- Gen. Potter is expected to come out all right. At least it is proved he executed orders to his best ability and when in doubt consulted his subordinates Comdg. Div. for their best advice -- I know we marched harder than I wish to again to come to the assistance of that "experiment" Pope.

I expect Griffin, who is tried on almost the same charges, will come out all sound. Write soon -- love to Mother and the girls --

Yr. Affect. bro'

Edward
My dear Mother:

I don't write tonight because I have anything in the way of news to tell, but because, not having had a letter from home for so long a time, I wish to get you to "stir 'em up" for me and make them write.

I think Fannie and Will might do better. Of the others I can't generally complain. Lottie and Annie write as often as they can, I suppose -- I am sure they both have enough to do to keep them busy.

I haven't heard from Marie for a long time -- what is the reason? Nor have I heard from Hugh in an age.

We are still stationary and I think will be for some time to come. At least there are no indications of a forward movement, at present. We don't seem to progress any the more after getting McClellan out, and after the announcement of the policy of "Honest(†) Abe." We don't get very cheering news from Vicksburg either -- nor from Galveston. And Rosecrans don't seem to have gained much by his late battle -- What possessed our wise heads of government to send Banks to New Orleans? -- What sense is there in dividing the army in that way? Why not concentrate either for the attack of Richmond or some settled point? Had Banks and Burnside cooperated, or had Banks and Sherman acted together something might have been effected. We need a revival or revolution among our public servants (the President and his Secretaries).

What kind of time did you all have Christmas? Will told me you had three turkeys sent -- who in wonder sent them? I had a very pleasant Christmas and New Year's -- that is, pleasant for the Army --

I wrote to Charlie Post some time ago but have as yet received no answer. I wonder if his regiment was in the late battles.

So Will didn't get a chance of exhibiting his elocution before the assembled multitudes on the list of prize competitors -- small loss for him. There never used to be, in the past six years, any fairness in the way the appointments were given out, or in the awarding of the prizes. Nor is good reciting of a set piece a test of talent as a speaker or a test of scholarship. He needn't feel badly over his failure.

I have no more time to write at present. Love to all and to yourself. Remember me to the Misses Tillighast and to all who ask after me.

Affectionately,

Edward

I am going to "frank" this letter as an experiment and I want to know is postage is required at the end of its journey. Please let me know when anyone writes.
My dear Sister Lottie:

Just a few moments to spare tonight and those I will devote to writing a few lines home. It is some time since I have heard from home or from Marie. What is the reason? I hope no one is sick.

I wrote to Mother night before last but as I franked the letter I don't know whether she will get it or not. Let me know and also if it requires payment at the post office in Geneva.

We have indications of an intended movement, but time and direction not to be surmised. I doubt if we move at all for some time to come. Things here move on in the same slow way -- nothing new and very dull. A large number of officers are absent on leave (some without leave). But few enlisted men get away from our portion of the army, at least.

I have returned to the applicants at least forty furloughs disapproved within the week.

Porter you see got thro' his trial all right. Pope failed in his attempt to lay the blame of his retreat and disaster upon the Army of the Potomac and by implication upon McClellan. Porter's trial proved that McClellan and his Generals did all in their power to extricate him from the foolish snare he had got into.

I shall never cease to blame the administration, 1st for dividing the Army at the commencement of the Penninsular campaign -- that fatal mistake compelled McClellan to "dig" the rebels out of Yorktown instead of turning the position by a force up the York and Pamunkey Rivers; 2d, for the failure, after the battle of Williamsburg and West Point, to permit the cooperation of McDowell by way of Hanover. This gave the "Secesh" time to fall back on Richmond and entrench their position on the Chickahominy; 3d, for the continued failure to cooperate after we had opened the road by the battle of Hanover C.H. This failure resulted in rendering that battle a useless waste of life. The road was clear and no enemy in the way -- Why did the Government fail to keep its promise, and not let McDowell march to take position on our right? Their pickets could hear our firing during the battle and the men chafed to aid us in the flight -- orders forbade.

A short time after the rebels, suspecting how our right was open to attack, sent Stuart with his cavalry to ride around our Army! He did so, by way of Hanover C.H. and as he passed over the battlefield no doubt thought how like a victory that battle had been to them, since we had gained nothing and had lost many lives -- to be sure we gained the day but what else? So Stuart rode around our army, saw our weak points and how easily our right could be assailed. Nothing now remained but to prepare for a change of base, and every preparation for retreat was made. Soon Jackson appeared on the right at Mechanicsville -- and seven days retreat and battle began. The next and 4th failure of the government was the foolish withdrawing of the Army from the Peninsula -- this enabled "Secesh" to throw their whole force upon Pope -- and to invade Maryland. The 5th fault was the
superseding of McClellan by Burnside which resulted in the miscalculations culminating in the battle of last month. So we go. Now I don't claim any great wisdom, but I ask if I did not predict failure before each of the above named periods? -- in fact, it was palpable to all that they were military blunders -- and I think the blunders were intended. Yes, I believe it was the deliberate intention of those in power to prolong the war -- until they had forced an abolition policy -- Do you think our lives of any value to those who would make this a war for the freedom of the negro alone? Not at all -- they tell us, because we are not willing to see the negro in our ranks and do not wish to make that a test question, that we lack patriotism! We who have stood the brunt of so many battles! I speak for the whole army -- particularly the old army.

Gov. Andrews of Mass. promised so many volunteers if the negro were the object; and an abolition policy proclaimed, hardly kept his promise, and the few men who did come, tempted no doubt by the large bounty offered, prating of the "poor oppressed negro", could hardly be brought into line under fire and ran the first opportunity. The old troops who without bounty and no hope of any had enlisted twenty months ago had to do their work for them. Still because the Negro is not our God we are no patriots, almost as "bad as the traitors of the south." Vive le nigreril! Vive Honest (§) old Abel.

I begin thinking the "little joker" (old Abe) almost "played out." What do you think -- so we go. The negro first, our country next.

Affectionately,

E --
Dear "Bill":

"I'm demoralized!" No use of talking -- "totally demoralized" is the word. Porter censured!!! and that after the evidence adduced! Was he prejudged? Or could you expect justice in a court over which Hunter presided? And if they only struck at Porter -- but they aim at McClellan -- O! The treachery of fanaticism, the base perversion of justice in those who rule -- our Patriae -- Freedom, Justice, and Liberty are dethroned and a snake-haired fury reigns in place; her name is Abolition.

And the Army of the Potomac "moved." We had expected orders for three days, in fact were under orders for that time. Burnside issued an address" -- told us it was to be a "fatal blow to the Rebellion", "was to bring peace to our distracted land". In fact, a "big thing" was to be done. And Burnside did a "big thing" -- lost four days good weather and just as it began to rain moved to the right with this and the Grand Division of Gen. Franklin -- Moved two miles first day -- and three the second and stuck in the mud!! Took two days to get in moving order again -- in the meantime the "Rebs" got ready and were able to oppose our crossing with effect. The great wonder is that Burnside had sense enough to return to the old camp we occupied before the move began. I imagine he heard some plain talk as he passed along the lines and took the hint.

Two days were occupied in gaining our old ground and they were days of toil. The road had to be corduroyed seven miles before we could move artillery or wagons of any kind. Horses and Mules died by the score all along the road. We think Burnside "played out". We know he is no general for such a command. Will the Government take warning in time or will they continue as they have begun? Must the Army mutiny before they understand that they are not in "excellent spirits" and "thinking to be led against the enemy" under such men as Burnside? Poor weak-minded fool he! He tried to storm Fredericksburg the first time by Infantry and only supported by two batteries (12 pieces) of short range guns in position to effect any good! Our men had to fight beyond the cover of our guns raked by an unchecked fire of the enemy's artillery! and all the time we had guns of long range not even mounted but rusting in the mud!!! I'm "demoralized" and who is not? "The army in good spirits!!" Yes, our men like to be led to slaughter, or perhaps they have got used to it. McDowell gave them the first lesson in it and he was ably seconded by Hunter in S.C. when the 79 (Highlanders) and the 8th Mich. were used almost entirely up. -- (Lost over one half their number). Pope also tried the same lesson -- the same funny thing was tried at Vicksburg. In fact we have got used to it and rather like to go into a fight with the expectation of being led into some pleasant surprise in the way of a "rap." "The Army is but little affected by the removal of McClellan -- Soldiers burthened with knapsack have but little time to discuss such topics and are accustomed to implicit obedience. They care but little who is in command." So says the Tribune. He ought to have added, "The soldier is -- or ought to be -- or will be if my policy is carried out to the letter -- a dog."
I don't say the Tribune lies -- no -- but I wish the writer along with Lincoln, Halleck and Stanton and some others had to take Fredericksburg under Burnside -- I admit we don't much mind who leads us to butchery provided we must be butchered, but we do seriously object to being butchered. Does the Tribune forget who compose the Army? Or do we lose the right and habit of thinking (and acting, I might add by way of hint and warning) when we enlist in our country's defense? Is it the natural result of his policy to degrade the men who compose the bulk of our armies below the level of thinking men?

The game is almost "played." What will the end be?

Would to Heaven the South would hoist the old flag -- proclaim themselves for the Union as it was -- The Army of the Union would shake off the rule of fanaticism and join them and the North and West would sustain them and a New Union Arise or the Old Union rather be united. And let New England go!

You see, I am "demoralized."

I feel like a man in a ship with a crazy pilot and rocks ahead -- gaily we sail on, catching every breath of wind -- going swiftly, going surely to the Devil -- And how the sharks are about the ship to gobble us up!

"The Gods help those who help themselves." And why don't we help ourselves?

Lincoln may think this is Fredericksburg -- all that was a joke. Let him think that. The old proverb reads, "Whom the Gods would destroy they first make mad (i.e. foolish)" and he is and acts very foolish!

What if the People and the Army take the matter in hand. We are ready. Are the people yet waked up -- do they see the rocks upon which we are surely going to ruin?

You see I'm "demoralized."

Write soon.  

"Affectionately"

E --
My dear Mother:

By the same mail with this I send you a slight present, which I feel sure you will value, in addition to its worth as a gift, the more that it represents scenes in which I have taken part. In it you will see represented the old camp at Minor's Hill, Va. with the Regiment in line for Dress Parade. You can see the arches over the entrance of each Co. Street -- on the left of the line of arches you will see that of my Company. Have you ever seen a dress parade? The music is now "beating down" -- the men at "parade rest", still each one in his place, not a muscle stirring.

One of the side pictures represents my Co. crossing the Chickahominy to attack the 5th Louisiana. After we had dispersed that Regt. we were attacked by a whole Brigade of Rebs. (Seminis I think). But they also were repulsed, severely, by the remainder of the 4th Mich. which came to the rescue. The victory belonged alone to the Regt. No other troops were engaged, or called for, and the victory was complete. On the opposite side you see McClellan riding out to meet us returning from this fight. How pleased he was! And only sad when he saw the dead and wounded go by. We lost two killed and six wounded while the Rebs. lost over a hundred and fifty besides prisoners!

The battle of Malvern Hill is very well given -- you see the house with the cannon near? My Co. was just by the cannon and we were obliged to lie down on our faces sometimes for them to fire over us. We lost heavily there -- more than half of the Regt. are now lying on the field of Malvern. Col. Woodbury (D.A.) was killed there. You see his picture on the upper left corner? He was a brave soldier -- he was not more than ten feet from me when he fell -- and five minutes after Capt. Rose was killed on the same spot. Out of twenty-four men (twelve files) on the right of Co. "A" Jack Gahrter and myself (Jack "covered" me, i.e. was my rear rank man) were the only ones not touched by shot or shell. I was struck by a "spent ball" which only made a black and blue spot.

Col. Childs, our next Col., is given on the right upper corner. He has resigned and gone home. He was not liked as was Woodbury. We have no Colonel now.

Yorktown siege is well given.

Behind that chimney the Reb. sharpshooters used to try and pick us off as we were picking up the dirt. How the shot and shell used to whistle over us there! All day long and day after day they kept it up but couldn't stop us working.

On the lower left hand corner you will see "Fort Woodbury" opposite Georgetown S. C. (One of the Defences of Washington). The 4th built this fort previous to going to Minor's hill. If we had the fording of the Potomac at Shepperdstown and the battle of Fredericksburg in some way mentioned -- the thing would be complete.

In haste -- affectionately

Edward
Miss Lottie D. Taylor

Geneva
Ontario County
New York

Box 453

Head Quarters 1st Division
5th Army Corps
April 1st, 1863

My dear sister Lottie:

I just this moment received your last letter. I was very glad to hear from you and from home. You say you have not heard from me in a month. I have written at least twice in that time.

I am sorry to hear that mother has been sick. I hope she will be quite well when this is received. Anna also I understand has not been enjoying very good health. I hope she is better now.

Marie sent me the letter from Hugh containing the description of his new home. It seems rather small for so many. Are all of Mrs. Stowe's family with him? I can't see where he manages to "Stove" them all in his limited space. Well, I suppose he enjoys it better than boarding.

I hear from Marie occasionally. At last writing she was well.

I am glad to hear of Will's success in College. I hope he will keep it up and come out as near the lead as possible.

The weather is getting to be quite settled and, I suppose, before long the army will be on the move, perhaps by the time you get this. I look with considerable hope to the coming campaign. The Army is in good spirits -- never better, and the discipline is much improved since Burnside left us. I can't say I like Hooker, but he is a man of much strength and firmness.

You ask if the two years men are likely to remain -- not very -- they will undoubtedly go home at the expiration of their time. Many may re-enlist after they have been home some time and begin to get restless. But the two years regiments are not composed of two years men alone -- of the 38 two years regiments at least one third (perhaps 9000) are three years men. Thus after the two years men have gone home, the organization of these regiments will be preserved and these "skeletons" can be filled by recruits and "drafts". We have six two years regiments in this Division -- their united strength, "present for duty", will not exceed 1500 of whom 500 are three years men. The whole strength of these regiments "present and absent" is about 2400. The nine months men will make a little hole in the army -- one Division (Humphrey's) of this Corps (the 5th Meade's) is almost entirely composed of nine months men. I hope the draft will be put through with a firm hand. It should have been resorted to a year since.
As for negro troops -- I must say I begin to think differently. Not that I love the negro more but I do believe that they are more fit to be used than I once thought. I would have little objection to seeing them put into regiments with white officers and kept by themselves -- not put in among white troops, nor even allowed to have colored commissioned officers. A regiment composed of good and picked negroes, with firm officers, who didn't love a negro too much to shoot one if he played coward, would make me believe a rather desperate obstacle for Rebel Chivalry to contend against. You may wonder what has changed my opinions in that matter. I have seen distinctly negroes doing picket duty across the river here. If the "Rebs" use them why not we? Again a desperate negro is a terrible thing. Now though "Johnny Reb" uses the negro (the thing is settled beyond dispute for negroes have been captured among their ranks and the fact of negro soldiers is mentioned in the Richmond papers.), yet he vows vengeance on any Yankee negro or Yankee commanding negroes on our side. Hang them he will! So both officer and "neg" would have nothing to do but win or -- get hung -- and would naturally prefer the former. Why shouldn't a negro be used as a soldier by us as well as Indians by the "Rebs"? Why would not they make as good soldiers for us as for the English or French? And what better is a "Sepoy" than a negro? It is also proposed to use them where white men die off unless acclimated. In short I see no objection to using the negro as a soldier if he be properly handled.

By the way, I have been offered a commission in one of Gen. Danl. Ulman's new Regiments -- rank and file black -- officers white -- so far I have neither declined nor accepted. What shall I do?

An order has just come down directing this Division to wear as a distinctive badge a red woolen maltese cross (ธร) on the front of the cap. Hooker is bound to put his mark on his sheep before he takes them to slaughter.

Write soon -- love to all.

Affectionately.

Edward
HEADQUARTERS, ARMY OF THE POTOMAC
Camp near Falmouth, Va. April 30th, 1863

General Orders)
No. 47 )

It is with heartfelt satisfaction the Commanding General announces to the Army that the operations of the last three days have determined that our enemy must either ingloriously fly, or come out from behind his defences and give us battle on our own ground, where certain destruction awaits him.

The operations of the 5th, 11th and 12th Corps have been a succession of splendid achievements.

By command of Major General Hooker:

S. Williams,
Assistant Adjutant General

Official:

Captain, A. D. C
Miss Lottie D. Taylor

Geneva
Ontario County
New York

Box 153
Head Quarts, 1st Div. 5th Corps
May 7th, 1863

My dear Sister Lottie:

Now that we are again quiet I write to let you know that I am "all right." The great movement has ended and contrary to my hopes no great success has followed. Splendid fighting has been done and at one time the city was in our possession, but some blundering was committed and the result is that we are now in our old camp. In fact, we had to retreat. They say the "Rebs" also retreated, so much the more shame to us.

The fifth Corps did well and our Division best of all. The Eleventh (Sigel's) Corps acted shamefully, running without firing a shot, on the first appearance of the enemy. Mostly Dutchmen (rather Germans) they have always played the cowards. Hooker has failed entirely in this move -- has been outwitted, in fact, and the enemy have either escaped or are in as good position as before the attack. I am very sorry, for we needed such a brilliant victory to give spirit to the men. There was fighting done by the 6th Corps under Sedgwick just above Fredericksburg, but he had to withdraw, having advanced too far. I saw a charge made by a Maine Regt. (the 6th I think). It was a splendid thing. Up a steep hill in face of a tremendous fire. What a pity that the bravery of such men should be thrown away -- that so many lives be lost -- that no great discouragement to bravery be forced upon men really brave by such constant blundering!

Is Hooker only "getting his hand" in? And are men to be sacrificed for his practicing? Is he capable of the position? I can't answer the questions, but I know that fearful blunders were made and many lives thrown away -- for what? People at home will never know the extent of these blunders nor the extent of this failure, for means are taken to prevent such a result. You are perhaps told it is a victory! I can't say who is to blame only I know there is blame.

I enclose Gen. Hooker's order previous to the final attack. How different the result from his anticipations! Instead of the Enemy retreating we retreated! Our men didn't wish to fall back and were unwilling to obey the order. What a howl would have been raised north had McClellan delayed his moving until the last of April and then retreated from a retreating enemy! A year ago they howled when they could not make Gen. McClellan move before the 10th March. I don't wish to condemn Hooker until we know all the facts, all I know now is that we failed in our ends -- and were compelled to retreat and that from an enemy who we had every reason to think
was also falling back. If I judged at all I should say that the error was in dividing our forces as was done and thereby putting it in the power of the enemy to crash one portion before aid could be given. If that be the error Hooker is to blame. Time will settle the question, and Hooker will be sure to get justice, as Wade, Chandler & Co. will not likely sit in judgment on him, he being "all sound on the wool", that is, "anti-McClellan." Though wherein McClellan interfered, politically, with the views of the abolition party I never could see, I rather think that they with the desire of forcing certain issues wished to keep the war going and merely made McC. the scape goat for delays created by them and for failures at the bottom of which they were.

I am, as usual, writing in great haste. Can you read it?

Love to all. Write soon.

Affectionately

Edw. H. Courtney Taylor
Miss Lottie D. Taylor

Geneva

Ontario County

New York

Box 153

Head Quarters 1st Div. 5th Corps

May 12th, 1863

My dear Sister Lottie:

Tho' you are owing me a letter, yet having nothing particular to do just now, I will write again. We are now quietly settled in our old quarters and getting over the fatigue of the late movements. I see by the few papers allowed to reach us that the administration are using every effort to make a victory out of that affair. I admit we did whip them in actual battle, but as a whole we did not gain our end. Good fighting was done. Our men are brave but no advantage was made of our actual gain and our valor was wasted by poor generalship. A victory is no victory at all unless you can show some great advantage to compensate for so many lives lost and so many wounds received. Otherwise the dead and the friends of the dead can judge the General whether he be guilty of murder or no. To be sure a general may have expected success from certain movements, but if all movements were made according to his wish and he still fail, and can only boast to have taken so many prisoners and to have taken so many cannon and not to really have weakened the enemy, nor having bettered our own position, but to have lost many killed, wounded and prisoners, then I say he is justly to be held responsible for failure for lack of judgment -- for the lives of the men lost by failure. If we give a general full scope and free action we have a right to expect correct judgment and success from him. Our Peninsula campaign was a failure owing to the failure of McDowell to cooperate (the latter owing to his orders from Washington.) But the battles of the seven days were successful as they accomplished the end in view i.e. the saving of the army. Our heavy loss in men was fully balanced by the saving of the main body of the army and its material. Our campaign under Pope was a failure for he, lacking proper judgment and command, allowed what should have been an orderly retreat, at worst -- to become a disorganized rout, and therefore the enemy took advantage and our loss was heavy and far too heavy. A proper amount of judgment had saved many men and much material and perhaps have given us the chance when the enemy were too much excited in the order of pursuit, to have severely punished them and perhaps to have changed our retreat into advance. Our Maryland campaign was a success, having in view the driving of the enemy from loyal territory. The enemy were severely punished at South Mountain and Antietam and good judgment or poor judgment as a committee call it alone prevented the Commanding General from pursuing the next day and getting badly whipped in turn, for we had but two Divisions that morning # Morell's (our Division) and Sykes (the Regulars) with which to open pursuit and neither Division numbered five thousand present. (There were more on the rolls, but many had struggled on the rapid marches from Washington). Besides, these
same men were enfeebled by their stay on the peninsula during the hot summer and the following terribly long marches, averaging twenty miles a day to the relief of Pope, and the following marches and battles of his retreat and the still later march through Maryland — rapid and toilsome, though the Committee speak of eight miles a day as the average — and a well-known lie. Burnside, tho' a good soldier in certain limits and with a not too large command, failed. We were very hopeful of success when he took command as well as when Hooker did, not that we considered them as better than McClellan but in each case thought the administration would give them more countenance and support. We don't so love McClellan that we would be unwilling to fight under any good General whom the government would favor and support. But until they find a better than McClellan let us have him and let them support him honestly. They have never done so yet. If they have a good and trustworthy and judicious General whom they can honestly and honorably support let them put him on the carpet and the army will fight as well as ever they did. But no more experiments, no more "breaking in" of Generals, no more of compelling movements against the better judgment of the Gen. Commander and the man who is held responsible. Burnside failed, but I only blame him for being forced to undertake what he confessed himself unable to do. He was a good Division of Corps general but was not able then to command the Army of the Potomac. And Hooker has failed now. Say what people may and say what he say. He confesses his failure in the accompanying order: "If it has not accomplished all that was expected, etc." He places the reason "unforeseen obstacles." The only obstacles I know of were that the enemy outflanked us by superior maneuvering and of course it was full time to recross the river. What business had he in letting them out maneuver him? I can't trust Hooker. Most of the winter I have lived within ten rods of his quarters and know him to be a whiskey "bloat" — one of the most profane men I ever knew and a terrible braggadocio. Still when he took command and particularly just as this move began I was willing to give him all support in word and deed, for I thought there must be something beneath the exterior — something of a great General, to win such praise from the papers and public and such powerful support from the administration.

Genl. Orders No. 49" in part tells the truth but would leave the impression that a substantial gain had been obtained. Not so. Everything here is now in "status quo" and the real bravery was wasted for naught. The design of this order is to make the world believe Hooker a great General as the gainer of a substantial victory. Now no papers are permitted to be sold within the lines unless they contain laudations of Hooker and the Administration. All others are prohibited. Is he afraid the soldiers will see their own opinion in print?

I enclose the pattern of a "badge" — I would like you to make me one after it. The Army are ordered to wear a certain badge upon their caps or hats and it is an offence to be found without the proper badge conspicuously worn. The first corps wear a badge of circular form (⊙). The second corps wear a fro-foil (◼). The Third Corps wear a lozenge (◊). The fourth Corps is not in this army. The fifth (our) Corps (Gen. Meade's) wear a maltese cross (✚). The sixth corps wear a Roman cross (✚). The seventh and eighth and ninth and tenth corps are not in this army. The 11th Corps wear a crescent (☯). The 12th wear a star (★). Now there are
three Divisions in each Corps so that by each Div. having a color you have a mark by which you can tell where a soldier belongs and which Division has the most stragglers during a fight. So the 1st Div. of each Corps wear a red badge - the 2nd Div. wear a white badge and the 3d Div. have a blue one. Thus a man of the 3d Div., 12th Corps would wear a blue cloth (woolen) star. A man of the 2nd Div. 6th Corps wears a white (woollen) cross. And I belonging to the 1st Div. 5th Corps wear a red maltese cross (the prettiest badge of all.) These badges are supplied to the army made of woolen cloth but I want an extra one and slightly different in finish. The cross is to be covered with red (silk) velvet, with a border of white silk very narrow, or a border of gold or silver braid very narrow. The cross to be made of some stiff material and covered with silk velvet. The stiffening can be of cloth or leather so as to raise the cross above the "base" and make it "set out." The "base" will also be made of some stiff and thick material and covered with blue cloth, either dark or light blue will do. If braid be placed around the cross dark blue would be most suitable for the covering of the "base." I should prefer dark blue in any case. The cross is to be sewed to the "base." The stiffening used should be such that will not spoil in getting wet. I enclose a specimen of the badges issued to the troops made of red cloth. The badges are a very good notion and serve a good purpose in preventing straggling, etc.

There is positively no news stirring. Do you hear from Charlie Post? He has not answered my last. I shall write to him when I get time, soon, I hope. So he was arrested for a straggler. I am saved that danger now though once I was arrested as a rebel -- that was just before the 1st Bull Run battle. I was arrested by a Dutch Sgt. -- the 27th Pa. Col. Einstein of Bluer's Div. and released by Gen. Miles who was killed at Harper's Ferry. I believe I wrote home at the time. I didn't have a very bad time -- was under guard two days and after that spent some four days with my captors in an Irish Company of the Dutch (27th) Pa. Sgt. -- saw and was in, for a little while, the battle of July 18th, 1861 (First Bull Run.) Now I can make my own which would be good to take me to Washington or home if I had leave to go. Did I tell you I was in Washington last month? I went up on duty with a party of soldiers to store surplus baggage. I was very busy while there but enjoyed the change from camp to city very much.

I haven't heard from Marie in a very long time -- Do you hear from her? I fear she is unwell.

I have written a very long letter but I fear a very uninteresting one. Write soon and make the others write also. Tell me all the village news. Love to all.

Your affectionate brother

Ewd. H. C. Taylor
The news is that the Cavalry did a very "big thing" or as Lincoln says "a large and extensive thing." Good for them, I say. But why didn't Hooker take advantage of it? What use in sending cavalry out on such expeditions unless as part of a great movement. The whole cause of Hooker's failure was his division of the army into so many distinct bodies operating from different directions and seemingly with no general plan and no cooperation. One Corps here, another there with no connection and one ignorant of the movements of all but his own troops -- the Cavalry at another point doing its best -- all fought well but from the lack of general plan and cooperation and of a proper concentration of attack all was spoiled. I enclose a few paper Maltese crosses as patterns of the shape and size I would like mine to be made. (If indeed you will make me one.)

Goodby

Edward

You may think I am bitter on Hooker but I have just been making out lists of "killed, wounded and missing" and I can't help thinking the many deaths were for nothing. If Hooker does better in the future (doubtful) I will forgive him this.

E --
Recommendations for Brevets and Medals.
Surveyors. Inspector General's Department.
Captured arms. Company savings.
Prisoners sentenced to hard labor.

HEADQUARTERS, ARMY OF THE POTOMAC
Camp near Falmouth, Va. May 12, 1863

General Orders
No. 53

1. Commanding officers will forward, with their reports of the recent battles, separate lists, containing the names of officers, non-commissioned officers and privates, of their respective commands, deserving of brevets or medals, or honorable mention in orders, for distinguished and gallant services in the face of the enemy. It is not expected that these lists will mention those who simply do their duty, but those only whose gallantry or merit were conspicuous and worthy of especial notice. The lists should set forth the number and nature of wounds received, if any, and the previous battles in which the officer or soldier has been honorably mentioned, engaged or wounded, &c.

2. The non-observance, in many cases, of the regulations prescribed in General Orders nos. 10 and 30, for the government of Surveyors, requires the attention of all commanding officers, and of the officers of the Provost Marshall General's and Inspector General's Departments.

Hereafter, whenever it shall be found that improper uses have been made of the facilities granted to Surveyors, the offending party will be sent immediately beyond the lines of the Army not to return, his name published in orders, and the command permitting the unauthorized traffic, will be denied transportation or passes for private stores.

3. The officers of the Inspector General's Department are, by virtue of their official position, required to see that all orders are strictly enforced.

4. Division Ordnance officers will be held responsible that all arms and equipments of sick and wounded men, and all captured arms and equipments are brought off the field in time of action. Corps and other commanders will hold them to a strict accountability therefor.

5. Paragraph 2, of General Order, No. 35 of April 2, 1863, from these Headquarters, is amended so as to read as follows:

Accounts for company savings, accompanied by a letter of advice, stating the Regiment, Brigade, Division, Corps and Army, to which the writer belongs, would be forwarded to the Commissary General of Subsistence, United States Army, at Washington, D. C.
When such accounts are made out as required by the Regulations, and the Commissaries signing the certificates to them, have taken up the stores on their returns, payment will be made.

The envelopes containing the accounts, besides having the usual direction, must be endorsed, "Company Savings."

6. Prisoners sentenced by General Courts Martial in this Army, to hard labor upon public works, will be sent to the Provost Marshal General, with copies of the order promulgating the sentence and of the descriptive list of the soldier, in each case.

The Provost Marshal General will dispose of these prisoners in such manner as may, from time to time, be indicated to him from these Head Quarters.

7. The flag for the Head Quarters of the cavalry corps, will be of the same size and shape as heretofore prescribed for Head Quarters infantry corps, yellow, with cross sabres white.

The flag for the Head Quarters of the Artillery reserve will be of the same size and shape as heretofore prescribed for Head Quarters infantry corps, red, with cross cannon white.

The flags for the divisions of the different corps of this army will be as follows:

(For the 1st division of each corps, a white rectangular flag, with the symbol of the corps in red.

For the 2d division of each corps, a blue rectangular flag, with the symbol of the corps in white.

For the 3d division of each corps, a white rectangular flag, with the symbol of the corps in blue.

For the light division of the 6th corps, a white rectangular flag, with the symbol of the corps in green.

The brigades of the 1st division of each corps a white triangular flag, with the symbol of the corps in red in the center.

The 1st brigade no other stripe or mark.

The 2d brigade a blue stripe six inches wide next the lance.

The 3d brigade a blue border ½ inches wide all round the flag.

The brigades of the 2d division of each corps blue triangular flag, symbol of the corps in white in the center.

1st brigade, no other stripe or mark.

2d brigade, red stripe six inches wide, next the lance.

3d brigade, red border ½ inches wide around the flag.
The brigades of 3d division of each corps, white triangular flag, symbol of the corps in blue in center.

1st brigade no other stripe or mark.

2nd brigade red stripe six inches wide next the lance.

3d brigade red border ¼ inches wide—all round the flag.

The chief quartermaster will furnish the flags upon requisitions approved by the corps commander.

8. General Head Quarters at night will be indicated by two red lights, one below the other.

Head Quarters of Corps by white and red lights side by side, close together.

Lights will not be thus displayed at any other place in camp.

9. The badges worn by the troops, when lost or torn off, must be immediately replaced.

The officers of the Staff on duty at these Head Quarters will wear a badge according to pattern in the Assistant Adjutant General's office.

The only troops without badges are the Cavalry, the 8th Infantry and 93d New York Volunteers on duty at Head-Quarters, and the Provisional Brigade at Aquia and on the Railroad.

(Provost Marshals will arrest as stragglers all other troops found without badges and return them to their commands under guard.

By command of Major General Hooker:

S. Williams,
Assistant Adjutant General

Official:
My dear Mother:

I send, as promised, my photograph, or rather three of them. I had them taken when I was up in Washington a couple or more weeks ago. One of them I have marked for you. I think it is the best of the lot. The other one marked with my name is for the family generally, and the one not marked you may destroy if you see fit. It is a poor one, the eyes being bleared. Tho' the pictures don't look as "rough" as I do, yet I must plead as excuse for looking as bad as I do that two years campaigning don't improve one's beauty.

I don't look very military in the pictures as the colors don't show and I have on a sack coat. I have one light blue pants and vest, the latter as well as the coat adorned with brass buttons. My coat is a light flannel sack coat, dark blue in color -- such a coat as is, in the army called an "officer's blouse" or an "undress coat". That is not my proper uniform, but such as I have worn since I came to Head Quarters. I don't like the regular uniform for soldiers, it is poorly shaped and in poor taste. I have on also a paper (the kind most known in the army, where wash women are unknown) and a woolen shirt, slate colored and dark stripe. I wear woolen shirts entirely now, and when I leave the army I think I shall continue to wear them as more comfortable than any other and full as cheap.

I should much like your picture with Lottie's, Willie's and Fannie's -- (I have Annie's, Hugh's and Marie's already) to complete my "gallery". Can you not have them taken for me? I have so many to divide my picture among that a dozen goes but a small way. I can have another lot taken from the same plate any time within the year if I wish, for they have the plates that long if desired to.

There is positively no news here. All reports of the Army having again crossed the river are false; we are still in our old camp and not even a division has moved. Nor have the enemy left the city of Fredericksburg as reported in the papers. Our coming movements are a mystery. But I should be glad if only Hooker proved himself capable of out-generaling and out-maneuvering as well as in whipping them in equal ground. The latter we can do but the General must do the former.

Love to all,

Your affectionate son

Edw. H. C. Taylor
Miss Lottie D. Taylor

Geneva
Ontario County
New York
Head Quarters 1st Div. 5th Corps
May 21st, 1863

Box 153

My dear sister Lottie:

I write this to enclose in Fannie's and can only write a few lines.

Fannie tells me you want one of those lithographs of the 4th Mich. I think my Regt. is on picket as the detail was made from that Brigade. But I'll go over this evening and if I can see Lt. Gruner (who drew the pictures) I will find out if he has any with him, and if so will send you one. I fear that he has sent all the pictures he had to Washington. I will do what I can about it tho' I may not succeed as soon as I hope. I am glad to hear that you have heard from Marie, for it was so long since I had heard I feared something was wrong. I have written to her three times since she wrote.

As for that badge the cross is to be sewed on around the edges. I am much obliged to you for undertaking it. You will see by the accompanying order that every one is obliged to wear his badge. The order also shows how we tell troops and where they belong on the field or on the march -- by the Head Quarter flag which in the march is carried at the head of the Corps, Division or Brigade, and in action is just in rear of the line of troops. Our Head Quarter flag is a white square flag with a large red maltese cross in the centre. Speaking of flags -- you should have seen the old flag of the 4th Mich. It has been sent home for safe keeping, as it was so torn and out from shot and shell that it could not be carried. We have a new one now, but I think more of the old soiled flag we fought under on the Peninsula and in every battle till the last.

There is nothing new at present and no appearance of moving in any quarter. Indications are that we will not move for some weeks to come.

As I have nothing to say, I won't make myself dull by saying it --

With love to Mother and all

Goodby --
Affectionately your brother

Edw. H. C. Taylor
Miss Lottie D. Taylor

Geneva
Ontario County
New York

Head Quarters, 1st Division, 5th Corps
Camp near Falmouth, Va., May 23d, 1863

My dear Sister Lottie:

I received your letter of May 15th and 20th containing the badge just now, and was very much pleased with it indeed. I had never seen one made in the manner I proposed and this is near my idea as well could be. The shape is perfect and the manner of making and its general appearance is all I expected. I didn’t think it would look as well as it does instead of expecting it to look better. Everyone is asking me “Where did you get your badge?” “Have you one to spare?” etc. I feel quite flattered by the notice it attracts. I owe you many thanks for it.

So you don’t think much of “Hooker’s strategy” — I think it is a palpable blunder. The cavalry might have attacked and might have captured the place — but they didn’t happen to know the consternation prevailing in the city. But what if they had taken the place — their own capture would have been a matter of course.

They might have done more and even held Richmond had Hooker’s main army pressed the enemy at this point.

The great cause of Sedgwick’s failure was the want of vigorous cooperation. And had Cavalry been used on the right the 11th Corps need not have been surprised.

The “Strategy” was a failure — the using of the stream was not the cause of failure or the cause of retreat. The order to retreat was issued fourteen hours before the storm began. The storm saved us from attack and made our movements secret. The bridges were not carried away by the storm.

You wanted to know how much I get a month — $13.00 — “Extra pay” to soldiers is stopped by the conscription act. I used to get from 25 to 40 cents per day extra pay — but that is stopped — I got that for one month.

I am glad my photograph gave satisfaction — I enclose some more copies. Some of them are not very good pictures. But you can pick out for yourself the best.

What is Charlie’s address — send it to me and I will write him, tho he is owing me a letter.
I received a letter today from Marie. She had been sick but was better. She sent me her photog. -- a very good picture and better than the old one.

When can you send me yours and Mother's and Willie's? Fannie has promised hers -- Love to all and remember me to all friends.

Affectionately

Edw. H. C. Taylor
My dear Sister Lottie:

I sent you on the 10th two of the lithographs of this Regt. Take the best one and if you will keep the other for me. I have no time to write much and indeed only write now because I forgot to mention the sending of the pictures in my letter to Annie of yesterday.

I told Annie that I had returned to the Regt. and was Sergeant Major thereof. I find it is not a very hard place and the prospect ahead is very fair. I tent with the Adjutant (Lt. Lumbard) who is a very clever fellow. I mess with about sixteen officers and turn my rations in for payment. It will not be so easy as my clerkship but the chances are good for the future.

Times are a little lively just now.

There was a brilliant cavalry fight near here in which our boys clearly showed their superiority as cavalry to the cavalry of the enemy.

There is nothing new or strange in or about camp.

Love to all -- Affectionately --

Your brother

Edw. H. C. Taylor
Battle Field near
Gettysburg, Pa. July 4th, 1863

Dear Mother:

I take this first chance to let you know that I am safe from the battle of day before yesterday and yesterday -- the slaughter was awful but so far all is in our favor -- I was taken by a party of "Rebs", and sent to their rear but managed to escape when they were repulsed by playing wounded and hiding behind a large rock -- I will tell my adventures another time. We took 300 men into the fight and brought out 88. I had a narrow escape. There is a lull in the storm. What comes next is hard to tell. I escaped from my captors before they had time to parole me and so am good for the next fight.

No more at present. When I can, I will write again.

Your affectionate son,

Edw. H. C. Taylor

Direct to

1st Division, 5th Corps
Camp 4th Mich. Infantry  
Near Emmettsburg, Pa.  
July 6th, 1863

My dear Sister:

I write a few lines to let you know that I have come through the late battle "all right." I will give all particulars when I can write at leisure. Till then good by -- Write soon.

Affectionately

Your brother

Edw. H. C. Taylor

Address

1st Division, 5th Corps  
Army of Potomac
My dear Sister:

I was much pleased to get a letter from you tonight and will answer it at once. It is quite a long time since I have had a letter from home tho' Marie wrote a short time since.

Everything here is very dull. Madame Rumor is very busy with our future prospects. One day we are to return to Michigan to get filled up -- (Only the most sanguine believe that). The next we are bound for Alexandria to take part in a new expedition. Meanwhile we go through the lazy routine of camp life in Virginia in "dog day", a little drill -- a little parade -- much sleep, and much "don't know-what-to-do-with-one-self." Tho' we are inactive there is no chance for furloughs -- Our Corps (except Humphrey's nine months Pennsylvania Division -- now discharged) never were much favored that way at any time.

I hardly know what they intend to do with the Army of the Potomac they have certainly taken away a large number of our men and we can't number now over thirty thousand for duty. Where they have sent these men I don't know -- some are in Washington and some I hear are in New York Harbor on transports. How true the latter is I don't know. The position this corps holds -- on the upper Rappahannock -- I do not think very secure, and is merely a cover for some other movement. I don't look for a forward movement by this direction and with our present force. I was in hopes if any expedition were organized with troops from this army, we would go for I am so tired of this Virginia campaigning.

I hope Charlie will be able to get as far as Geneva though twenty days will be but a short time for so long a journey. I am so sorry he ever enlisted, tho' as he has, I am sure he will do all his duty. What are his chances for promotion? He is not the kind to "curry favor" to secure place. I am glad Willie wasn't drafted. One is enough in the army as long as the rest can keep out. I will be perfectly willing to do the family fighting.

I received your paper. Much obliged. A Geneva paper is a rare thing to me. Geneva is, I fear, much changed since three years ago I hardly thought so long a time would pass before I should return and even now I see no prospect of getting home before about the list of next July. Which will be another year of many changes, perhaps.

You ask if the account of the battle of Gettysburg is correct. Nearly -- The 5th Corps had marched to reach the field for two days and nights and reading the field in time to save the left of the army, after an awful and at times hand-to-hand struggle (an uncommon thing in real war to cross bayonets with the enemy) left over one-third their number dead on the field. Few troops ever fought harder and better than did the old Fifth Corps -- Mendel had but lately left the command of this corps and when he sent Gen. Sykes in with us we told him it was a place where he could only trust "his boys."
I honestly believe the Battle of Gettysburg was the severest one ever fought and a fatal one to the South. Give us but success at Charleston -- at Mobile -- and we can afford to lie still here.

The Southern Confederacy is now on its last pins. They are exhausted, while we are hardly yet pressed for men or money. They are in the midst of their fourth conscription while we have just begun to claim the service every citizen owes to his country. Did you see as I can the hollowness of that called the Confederate Government you would be surprised that it held so long. That it still exists and is a power is only due to the low and degraded state in which the poorer people of the South are kept by their superiors. I sometimes wonder if I am not in a foreign country. The people are so different -- so debased and ignorant -- I mean the poor people. If I were a Virginian, I should be a very strong abolitionist -- from no love to the negro but from a real wish to get rid of a terrible curse to so fine a state.

It has got to be quite late and I must turn in.

Remember me to all friends, particularly to the Kingslands (pardon the blot), the Misses Tillinghast, Mrs. Angell and Dr. Bissell. By the way -- I wrote to Dr. Jackson and to Dr. Bissell, sending the former certificates from the Assistant Adjutant General of this Division and from the Colonel, about trying again for the Marine Corps. I do not know if anything will come of it, but I can do nothing unless through friends, and such a situation would be the summit of my wishes. I know I am fitted for a Lieutenant in the Marines and the appointment would be a life one. I have lost more than two years by being in the army if I do not adopt a military life as a profession. The Marine Corps is preferable for many reasons and obtainable if I can bring enough influence to bear. If you can in any way help the thing along, pray do. One thing you would perhaps find in favor of the Marine Service. It is, as is all sea service, safer than land service. The number we lose killed in one battle would man a large navy.

I do not think you can do much but do what you can please -- I do not build much upon obtaining my wish but deem it right to try.

Love to all -- yourself, Mother, Anna, Willie and Fannie. Let all and everyone write when you can and let mother write through one of you. When am I to get Fannie's and Willie's and yours and Mother's pictures?

Affectionately,

Edward

I am sorry my letter (the last) was so poor an affair since it was so honored.
Miss Lottie D. Taylor

Geneva, New York
Head Quas 4th Mich. Inft.
Camp at Beverly Ford, Va.
Sept. 13th, 1863

My dear Sister:

Yours enclosing the within deeds came by tonight's mail. Going to Washington is out of the question, but I am told that I can, in the absence of the proper civil authority have them acknowledged before a Judge Advocate and in absence of the latter before the Adjutant of the Regt. I did not know this before, but I went over and saw Colonel Conner of the 44th N. Y. Vols. who told me that Capt. Allen of the 44th who is Judge Advocate of a Court Martial now in session could do the business for me. I will see him tomorrow so as to have the papers ready for tomorrow night's mail (the next mail for Washington.)

I am very sorry to hear that you are again hard pressed. I am the more sorry that I can do nothing to help. I have been getting for the past two months the pay of Sgt. Maj. 21 dollars, but before I only got private's pay.

When I enlisted I was a little in debt from money spent in raising that Company. Had I not trusted certain persons, who proved false, I should not have been at all troubled for I should have been amply able to pay these little debts without difficulty from my pay as Lieut. These debts I have paid since.

Again I have lost clothing -- sent away for storage by order and which was never returned and clothing destroyed by order at Gaine's Mills (They feared that being loaded, the men could not do the marching expected of them). Now this clothing sent away or destroyed was clothing which we had to replace, as when sent away or destroyed it left us with only the clothes on our backs and no change. When we get into camp for any length of time we are expected to have a certain amount of clothing on hand. If we have it not, we must draw it and it is charged to us. We had orders at Miner's Hill to send away all our winter clothing and blankets for storage till the next winter but when winter came the stored goods did not come and to keep soul and body together we had to draw new overcoats, blankets and underclothing and uniform coats all of which are charged against us to be paid for from our monthly pay. At Harrison's Landing we sent away by order all but the clothes on our backs. These goods were never returned nor can we get any pay for them. But as soon as we got to Washington we had to draw new clothing throughout as we were covered with vermin, having had no change for so long. Leaving Sharpeburg the same was repeated. Again this spring at leaving Falmouth. In this way we have sent off clothing six times and each time were obliged to draw the same amount over again. Twice before going into battle we have had orders to take off our knapsacks and leave them. They were in one case burned when retreat seemed immediately upon us, in the other case about half the Regt. recovered theirs. I lost mine, it having been stolen by some of our skulkers. I also had a knapsack stolen
containing all my clothing and other articles — with blankets, etc. while I was sick with measles at Winter's Hill in the fall of 1861.

When we entered the service we had to draw a grey uniform which was charged to us at 20 dols. This uniform was discarded as too much like the Secesh, very soon after the 1st Bull Run battle, and we had to draw a full U. S. uniform which came to about 30 dollars.

The allowance of clothing from June 20th, 1861 to June 25th, 1863 is 78 dollars, but from the causes above given I had to exceed my allowance by nearly 130 dollars, and this for articles I was obliged to have and to show at every inspection. Had our officers done their duty or known their business we would have got the value of all clothing sent away by order or destroyed or left in action by order. Other regiments got pay for such things, but we are blessed with some very poor officers, as far as looking for the comfort of the men is concerned.

There is no chance for an enlisted man to be extravagant in clothing unless he be careless in taking care of them. I was and am as careful as possible. There is little chance of spending money in fine clothes as all dress alike except the commissioned officers.

I might have sent something home only I was ashamed to send so very little. After deducting my clothing account and such like, I only drew between seven and eight dollars a month. One has also to pay so much if he gets a little butter or a dozen eggs or pound of cheese from the sutler. Butter is 60 cents per pound — tea $1.75. Cheese 1 dollar -- condensed milk 1 dollar a can of pint size -- sugar and all other estables in proportion. Now one cannot live on pork and hard crackers alone — I grow bilious on such fare and must have change or starve. I am not dauntly as to what I eat — I can eat anything, but I have to suffer the consequences if I do not take proper care. I have and have for over fifteen months the chronic diarrhea and anything so indigestible as pork and hard bread eaten several times in succession increases it, and I suffer intensely with the pain. Hard fare and exposure are the cause and the same evils increase its violence.

Hereafter I shall be able to do something in the way of sending money home. How soon we will get pay I do not know. Two months are now due us, and of that two months 30 dollars will be deducted for clothing, etc. Then I shall be square and hereafter shall not be in a situation where I shall have to send away or destroy my clothing as my things are carried in the wagons.

I hope that this press for money at home will not last long but that better times are coming.

I think you will find the Deeds all rightly signed by me: at least I don't know how to do it differently.

Hoping this will find all well and happy and with love,

I remain your affectionate

Brother Ned.

P.S. Not being able to find the Judge Advocate I have to acknowledge the deeds before the Adjutant. He is just as well.
Head Quarters 4th Mich. Infty.
Near Culpepper C.H. Va. Sep. 29 1864

My dear Lottie:

Yours of Sept. 20th was received last evening. I am glad
the deeds were found all right. I was a little fearful they might not be
correctly acknowledged. I don’t understand why it was necessary to re-
deed that lot to Van Haltre. Does he give another deed in place? By the
way will it be of any use if I sign papers giving up any calms to that
Michigan land to mother as well as to the Hermitage? It might be that
you might want to sell and I being absent would have difficulty in
arranging it. If any good present or prospective would be gained by
signing over to mother, let me know and also the “moder operandi”.
It don’t amount to a great deal but what little there is belongs more
rightly to you females than to us boys.

Your tea was most acceptable. Old Jimmie declares it is
the best he has tasted since leaving Hingland. Old Jimmie is an old
Englishman. He cooks for me in addition to cooking for Camp A and in
return I am able to have certain privileges granted him. He is a genius
in a way though not blessed with scruples in regard to dirt. I have not
used to that however.

What cavalry regiment is it that is camped near Geneva?
I wish I had entered the Cavalry service instead of the Infantry. It is
much easier and has more life. Do you think there is any chance of success
in the Marine Corps? If not what are the chances of a commission in one
of the New York regiments at the end of nine months (when I shall be
discharged)? If I cannot get into the Marines I shall try for a position
in the Volunteers when I get out of this. We lost so many at Gettysburg,
that now we have to many officers for the number of men. (Some of our
officers will have to be mustered out and the chances of promotion are
small). In what part of Michigan does Mr. Bours intend to settle? I
hope Charlie may succeed in getting his furlough by the time I get home.
The Assembly is sounding and I must close at once.

Love and regards to all

From original
1/3/1955
E.H. Post
E.
October 16th, 1863

Dear Mother:

We are on the march and as you see have left Culpepper C. H. and have got as far as Fairfax C.H. The move began by a move from our camp at the former place towards the Rapid Ann on Saturday. We returned the same night, the Rebs having followed up too closely. On Sunday the cavalry gave them a "brush". The same day we moved back to Beverly Ford on the Rappahannock and crossed to old camp of August last. Next day we recrossed and drove the enemy who had followed as far as Brandy Station (five miles). Next day we again crossed the River and marched to near Gallette Station on the Orange and Alexandria R. R.

Next day to Manassas Junction. Next to Bull Run. Had a fight here and repulsed enemy capturing eleven (11) pieces Artillery and at least 300 prisoners. Next marched to this place, whence we expect to start immediately. The 2nd Corps which laid at Bull Run Creek yesterday had a fight and came out victors. I am well.

With love to all

Edward

Let me hear from home soon. Am writing on the top of my cap.
My dear Sister:

I received your letter of the 15th this evening. I was glad to hear from you once more. I wrote to you from Auburn on the 20th and to Fannie about the 6th inst. while at Three Mile Station, but owing to the irregularity of the mails you seem not to have received them. I wrote to Annie two or three days ago.

We have been "on the move" very much of late but now I hope we shall have a few days of quiet. We are fixing up our quarters, building fire places and putting up bunks, and hope we shall be able to enjoy them for a short time at least. You would laugh to see some of our contrivances in the way of chimneys, bunks, etc. At our last camp I put up a sod chimney which worked admirably. I worked from morning till past dark on it and had a man to help on it, but that evening I enjoyed the fire so much in it that I thought it fully paid for by one night's use. They told me that it would not stand the weather, but, as it proved, I had no chance to test it for before daylight the morning after it was built we were marching out of the camp. I tell the Chaplain (I tent with him in a wall tent) that we will have a good chimney tomorrow even if we move the next day.

Our present camp is the site of the Secesh camp of a month ago. On the very ground on which we lie the 45th N. Carolina Infty. had built log pens for winter quarters. Such holes as the Johnnies lived in! Respectable northern pigs would hardly like to live in them. The 45th N. C. would hardly know the spot if they were to see the neat comfortable quarters our boys have put up on the same ground. Our boys build log houses, the roofs of which are formed of shelter tents. Most of the boys being used to axes, the huts are very neatly made and are very comfortable when "chinked" and plastered in the cracks. Many of the boys have fireplaces and if we stay here long, everyone will have his fire place and "stick" chimney.

I hope that there may occur some vacancy in the Marine Corps tho' I don't build much on that. I am much obliged, however, to Dr. Jackson for all he has done. Please tell him if you ever meet with him.

It is just seven months today before my time is out, or rather our time is justly out on the 14th May next but they will probably hold us till the 20th June. One month on the end of three years is not much, however.

Hugh is owing me a letter and has for six months past. Have you heard from Marie lately?

There is no news of any consequence at all -- "All is quiet along the lines." Remember me to Girtie and to all my cousins -- and to all my friends.

With love to Mother, yourself and all.

Your affectionate brother,

Edward
Bealeton, Va.
January 9th, 1864

My dear Sister:

Feeling somewhat "homesick" this evening after getting no mail today. I merely write to ask if anyone is ever going to write to me?

I haven't heard from Will about the pipe -- Has he sent it yet? The mail is closing so good by --

Love to all -- Do write soon.

Affectionately

Edward ----
Dear Will --

Yours of the 5th was received today and the same mail bro't the pipe all sound.

The pipe was well packed and was uninjured by the journey. The job gave good satisfaction to Goutun (the owner) and was even more satisfactory than he or I anticipated. I am greatly obliged for the trouble you have taken in having it done and in forwarding it.

Our "veterans" are getting pay to day -- (advance pay and bounty) and the Camp is quite lively. The more I think of the matter, the more I congratulate myself on not having re-enlisted.

The only object I would have had would have been promotion. The bounty would be no object in my case. If I was obliged to enlist for fear of a draft it would be a good thing to secure the bounty, but I have no fear of that in my case. If I enlist at all it would be for the bribe of promotion. Now what right have they to ask me to re-enlist on that score? If I am worthy of promotion it is for past service and for actual worth. Give me my due thus without asking me to trust to promises, and without putting me to the risk of serving another three years as an enlisted man. If I am not worthy of promotion now, re-enlisting won't make me more worthy. Of course if I got a commission it would be for three years, and I think I would be willing to serve. But as an enlisted man no one can ask me to serve. I have done so as long as duty can require. Let others come and try it first, and when, after that, more men are required, then it may be my duty to come. Let there first be a dearth of men. In going into the service again I have a right to look to my own interests now as well as to those of the country -- don't you think I am right? As yet I hardly know how my action has affected my interests. Lt. Brown of Co. "A", a particular friend, tells me I am perfectly right and says he will refuse to take the captaincy of his Co. ("A") unless I am made Lieutenant of it. He is offered the Captaincy if he goes in for three years more. Other officers also tell me I take the right ground but I fear the Colonel and Major don't like it at all -- What do I care? As old Davy Crockett says "Be sure you are right and then go ahead." That is my motto. One thing without my own will they can't make me remain in the service longer than the 20th day of June next. As it stands now I would take a commission for the coming three years but will not enlist on a promise of one.

We are having cold weather.
Dear Will:

Yours of the 7th was duly received and would have been answered before had I not been too busy, and but for a bad cold which was almost equal to a sickness. I am now, however, quite well again. I took cold owing to the Regiment being obliged one cold damp night to remain up all night under arms in expectation of an attack on the R. R. at this point. We didn't have an hour's sleep till after daylight and it was so cold and it was so cold and chilly and damp it took me a week to get warm again.

For most of the time since I got back to the Regt. I have had to act in two capacities, as Sergt. Major and as Adjutant -- sometimes as Reg'tl Clerk. Now, however, I expect to have a rest, unless we move, for Lt. Maltz has returned and I sink back to my old rank of Sergt. Major.

Gen. Grant is at Culpepper and superintending the reorganization and remodeling of this Army. A large number of troops have been sent out to the front from Washington and things look like a move in less than a month -- I think Grant will do well if not hampered by Washington with its dead weight of intrigue and politics. I do hope they will give a good fair chance and full power to use his skill and force.

They say he will fight this army in person -- if he does we will show him some fighting -- the equal of which he never saw West. They fight very well out West, but real fighting was taught them when Longstreet turned on them and drove them back till the "defeated troops of Chancellorsville" the 11th and 12th Corps under Hooker drove them back. The 11th (Sigel's men) and the 12th corps used to be counted the poorest troops in the A.P. and they have a big name already among the Western Army. If Grant does fight us this summer and is allowed his way, I believe we will do a big thing. I hope so and have full confidence in his generalship as does most of the army.

Who is your candidate for President? Do you go for a military or civil candidate?

They seem to have got things "mixed" down in Florida -- a peculiarity of the Seymours I believe. Our Army up the Red River has had so far good luck. What do you think of Kilpatrick, Gustav and Dahlgren's raid? I think it is one of the biggest things of the war. The miserable dogs will suffer for the horrid murderous mutilations they performed on the dead body of poor brave Dahlgren. Did you read those scurvy articles from the Richmond papers?

We just have the news of the murder of one of our Sergts, a prisoner at Richmond, who was shot in cold blood while in charge of a small detail of men (prisoners) who were policing (cleaning) the prison quarters. It seems an officer spoke to him but he did not hear, whereupon a guard drew up and shot him down -- O Chivalry!
Did that letter turn up yet? There is nothing new in these parts. Give my regards to all friends and love to all the family. Hoping to hear from you soon, I remain

Affectionately,

Your Brother

Ed. H. C. Taylor

5th Army Corps

From indications tonight I look for a move in a few days, maybe within the week. -- A concentration of our troops either to counteract a similar move of the enemy or for attack is now going on.

I do not think that this regiment will be called on to move, for it will be necessary for the present to hold this Rail Road.
U. S. SANITARY COMMISSION

Pinley Hospital
Washington, D.C.
May 16th, 1864

Dear Mother:

I wrote while near Spotsylvania telling of my wound, but fear the letter failed to reach. My wound was received on the 8th, Sunday morning, thro' the right foot from side to side thro' the sole. Is quite painful and prevents walking but am thankful it is not worse. I do not think my foot will be stiff tho' it will be useless for say a month. I reached this Hospital on the 13th. Am well cared for and as comfortable as possible.

Do not write till you hear from me again as they intend to transfer us to other hospitals tomorrow. As soon as possible I will send my address.

I have directed my letters from the Regt. to be sent to Geneva. Keep them till you hear from me. Also my valise I have directed to be expressed there if possible. When I was wounded it was not possible to get at it as the teams were miles away, but Lt. Waltz will, I think, see to it.

I will write as soon as I get somewhere. Meantime with much love to all and regards to all friends.

I am your affectionate

Son
Edward

I wrote to Marie but fear it failed to reach. Write her for me and give her my love --

E

May 16th, 1864

My address will be, it seems, for the present as below -- please send all letters for me which may be re-mailed from the Regt.

Sergt. Major E. H. C. Taylor
Ward 3 -- Finley Hospital
Washington, D. C.
Summit Hospital
June 9th, 1864

Dear Mother:

I received letters from Anna Lottie and Fanny of May 26th, 31st and June 2nd yesterday and day before. I was very glad to hear from home and that all were well.

My foot is rapidly getting well. One hole is closed up and the other is doing likewise. In two weeks I will be perfectly sound again.

I will try to get mustered out in Phil., when my time is up and so save the trip to Michigan. At present I can't say how it will be, tho' the chances are in favor of discharge here. I have not heard from the Regt. since the 12th May but then they did not number twenty-five. There has been awful fighting since then, and I suppose the 4th was in also. Grant means to whip if fighting will do it, and I hope and believe he will succeed. He certainly has the best of the game now, and gets all the reinforcements he wishes.

I expect to have a pleasant time when I get home, since Chris will visit us, and Maria will be home. Maria wants me to come up to Beth, but I will put it off till after June 20, as I find it will better suit my pocket and then I will be better able to walk around.

I got a letter from Charley Post just before we began the campaign and had no time since to answer. Tell Lottie to make my excuse to him.

It is only eleven days from today till I am discharged. I do not realize the fact that the time is so near.

I am writing this on a pillow which makes a very poor desk. Give my respects to all who ask for me, to the Misses Tillinghast in particular with much love to all I remain -- Your affectionate son

Edw. H. C. Taylor
Summit Hosp --
Phila. Penn.
June 18 -- 1864

Dear Folks --

Don't write more till you hear from me. Am all sound again and wear my shoe --

Love to all

Affectionately

Edw. M. C. Taylor
Detroit, Michigan
June 29, 1864

Dear Mother:

Had to come on here with Regt. to be mustered out. Could not do it in Washington. Will be dischd. tomorrow but will not be able to start for Geneva till sometime next week as there is so much business to be done here, and I wish also to see if I can get anything to do in this part of the world.

I am very busy and can write no more. As I will be in Geneva soon, do not write.

Affectionately

Edw. H. G. Taylor
Detroit, Michigan
June 29, 1864

Dear Mother:

Had to come on here with Regt. to be mustered out. Could not do it in Washington. Will be dischd. tomorrow but will not be able to start for Geneva till sometime next week as there is so much business to be done here, and I wish also to see if I can get anything to do in this part of the world.

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