

LETTERS FROM LT. GEORGE WOLCOTT TO JULIA LOUNSBERY

November 1861 – April 1863

*These letters were written mostly in pencil, had been folded many times, and stored in Lt. Wolcott's leather bound traveling trunk, along with his saber. They are located at the Town of Caroline Historical Room.*

George Wolcott was born on January 13, 1836 in Mott's Corners [now Brooktondale] New York, the son of George and Sarah Reed Wolcott. His enlistment record lists his occupation as "Mechanick". Later census records list his occupation as "merchant" or "carpenter". He was single when he enlisted in April 1861 for 2 years as a Serg't at age 25. He was "mustered" [left for duty] from Caroline on May 31, 1861 with Company I of the 32<sup>nd</sup> Infantry New York State Volunteers.

After completing his duty, he returned to Mott's Corners and married Julia Lounsbury. They had one son, Clarence.

George Wolcott died in Brooktondale, NY on January 16, 1916 at the age of 80 years, 3 days.

(\* indicates names of persons mentioned in the letters and can be found at the end of this record.)

CAMP NEWTON

NOV. 10 / 61

My Dear Julia

Like yourself, Julia, the commencement of this letter as yours stoped [sic] me to think. Although I've written these words many times, yet the more I write them the dearer they become. Just looking at those short words quickens the frutsations [sic] of my heart and causes feelings the nature of which is entirely different from all others that I've felt. Since I commenced this, my thoughts have carried me back many years and to a time when I wouldn't dare make such a one. But coming back the journey becomes more pleasant and now I've returned to those words again, which's to know that I have the right to use them makes me most proud and happy. The letter you send by John Ryan\* was handed me all \_\_\_\_\_ did me a great deal of good and to know that you were feeling better certainly made me feel better. I don't know what the reason may be that John's \_\_\_\_\_ don't receive his letters, without it was that the Reg't being new the postmaster at Washington might not have known where they were encamped.

Paul\* and I got ready last Sunday to go and see John but learning that the Reg't had gone to the Navy Yard at Washington we had to give it up. I am glad that Rich is more \_\_\_\_\_ to you than he used to be. I can think more of him now.

I received you letter dated Nov 1<sup>st</sup> two days ago but I haven't had time to write till today and I haven't got time to answer it now as I wish to. You wish to know \_\_\_\_\_ had you dated this Oct 24<sup>th</sup> if I would have known what anniversary it would have been. I answer yes Julia you remember well what happened between us that night. I remember

all the circumstances of that night from the time we started from your home till we returned. And most of all I remember when with a beating and anxious heart I asked you that delicate question and how happy I was after receiving an answer. My heart has kept that date and your name and your welfare have been uppermost in my mind ever since and are now and I hope they ever will be.

Nor was it blindly or thoughtlessly that I asked you to be to me what you promised. I was a question that had been nearest my heart for a long time and I think it was sufficiently considered at least My Julia, I had thought of it long and earnestly enough to make it so. I loved you dearly Miss Julia, and I thought my affections for you could be no greater but it has been growing ever since and I have learned to love you as only a strong nature can love. How could I then be dissatisfied \_\_\_\_\_ did \_\_\_\_\_ be fullness any way from one on whom I have placed so much confidence, on one who has my whole heart and affections, and on one whom I expect to relive all my fondest hopes of happiness on this earth.

ELMIRA  
MAY 12 / 61

My Dear Julia

When we parted on last Sunday evening I not only felt that I was parting with one I most loved but realized more pain and felt more truly depressed than ever before not so much on account of parting (as I expect to meet you again soon) but that I might have acted cruel and unjust. But if I have Julia please pardon and have confidence in me for if I know my own heart I am sure you need not have any fear of me acting the part of a knave as I consider the promises that I have made you as sacred as the Bible itself.

But I suppose you would like to know where I am, and how I am, and how I have been since we left Ithaca. We started from dear old Ithaca on Thursday evening at seven o'clock amid the roar of cannon and the waving of handkerchiefs and arrived at Owego about mine stoped at the Ohwaga House and took tea which of course interested me very much.

We left Owego at seven and arrived at Elmira at nine we then marched to the Brevier House and took dinner. After dinner we march to our barracks which is in Beecher's Church where I now am writing, in company with Messrs Beers Bennet and Mills who are also writing to their friends.

I am well as usual and like the soldiers life very well so far much better than I expected to us we have good board at the Brevier House and don't have to drill but six hours a day. It is Sunday and although there is plenty excitement here I cannot but feel lonely at the thought that I can't be with you to night to enjoy your company as usual. But the dearest hope of being with you again and not to part keeps my spirits up and is the most precious that now engages my thoughts.

Friend Camp and I have just returned from a stroll through the City we saw a great many people of all classes and every description. Elmira is a third larger than

Ithaca and has some very nice buildings the most remarkable I saw was the Ladies Seminary which I think is a very splendid structure. I can't write any more at present and you must excuse me for not writing sooner as it is the first opportunity I have had this is rather a poor one for I have been writing on my knee with noise and excitement in every direction. Please write immediately as I am very anxious to here from you and direct in care of Captain Whittock.

From one that can't love you better  
George Wolcott

STATEN ISLAND  
MAY 22 [1861]

Ever Dearest Julia

When I wrote you in Elmira we were not aware that we should leave so soon. The Colonel of the first California regiment having heard of our company was very anxious to have us join his regiment and sent us a telegram to that effect on Thursday the 14<sup>th</sup> and we left Elmira for New York on Friday the 17<sup>th</sup> at 10. M and arrived at Jersey City ferry at 8.40 on Saturday. We had a very pleason [sic] ride but we saw nothing very remarkable till we were on board the ferry boat when we were suddenly surprised and elated by seeing on of the greatest wonders of the age (the great Eastern). It lay quietly at anchor and at first sight it appeared like a large black cloud in the distance. As we passed nearer to this great ship with its forest of masts it presented a splended [sic] and unexpected sight – to our unsophisticated eyes.

We reach the great Metropolis[sic] about ten o'clock am. The remainder of Saturday Ed Camp\*, and I with Ben Spaulding\* as guide spent traveling about the City. On Sunday we started for Staten Island at which place we now are.

We are all well except three or four and we are having good and interesting times. This Island is one of the most delightful places I ever saw. It is partly covered with woods and there is a cool breeze blowing continually which makes it very pleasant and also my healthful.

It is a pleasant day and I have just returned from a visit to the sea shore for the first time and I am now in the woods with my paper before me on a stump writing to one I love esteem and worship.

Dearest Julia Although I am far from you my heart is warmed with the deepest feelings of affection and love towards you, and never imagine that either time or absence or anything else will ever cause it to diminish.

I have not time to write any more at present I have not received a letter from you yet but I am anxiously looking for one.

Please write and give me the news and I will endeavor to with more the next time. The post office address is New Dorp, Staten Island, in care of Capt. Whittock.

May God bless and preserve you

Ever, my dearest Julia your most attached George

CAMP YATES  
JUNE 20 / 61

Dear Julia

I always leave you with feelings of regret but I never had then so muched [sic] moved as they were on Sunday eve. When I lingered at our usual place of parting there were many thoughts both sad and pleasant passed through my mind. I realized more than ever how precious you were to me and that my affection for you was not passing, but deep and lasting, and would last as long as life lasts. It was very hard for me to leave you but the hope of returning, to claim you as my own for ever, was nearest my heart and had no small influence in keeping my spirit bright and strong.

I left quiet Motts Corners on Monday evening, road all night on the cars and arrived at Staten Island safe and sound on Tuesday 11 o'clock am. I had a good nights rest Tuesday night and awoke Wednesday morning feeling very well. That cough I had I mostly lost on the cars and the cool and invigorating breese [sic] from the sea has blown the rest of it away. I am entirely rid of it now. On my return to camp I was gladly welcomed by the men who expressed quite a degree of pleasure at seeing me and in return I was pleased to see them and find them nearly all well. I expected there would be several sick with the measles but then had been only one new case since I left and those who had them had got well. Leiut. Jackson is very sick with them. They have been quite a dread here but I don't fear them on my account for I've had them and so has Ed Camp\*.

The men are being paid this week which caused confusion and excitement generally. Some are smart enough to keep their gold while others have been spending theirs as fast as they could Some by getting drunk and some by gambling.

But this will soon be stoped [sic] as the guard has been increased and the hard cases are closely watched.

Our food has been very good this week they have given us more than usually, good ham, dried plums, and strawberries. The first sergt and I are the last of our company to get our rations and by playing a good hand we have figured to get two rations, why shouldn't not. We don't do this only when they have something extra.

Each man has his ration handed him on a plate at the hotel \_\_\_\_\_  
Tarrytown corn and ours are allowed to go the barracks to eat.

Our regiment has not been ordered yet and I don't know when it will be Julia. Although it hasn't been but a short time since I saw you I am anxious to hear from you and shall expect a letter soon.

Your same George

ALEXANDRIA JULY 23 / 61

My Dear Julia

It has been one week and one day since I received a letter from you. It was the same day that we commenced our march for Manassas Junction and we have been marching ever since. Our Reg't got back to their old camp at Fort Ellsworth near Alexandria yesterday, Tuesday, after a slow march of twenty six miles all safe and well. We have met the enemy but they are not ours yet and we are not theirs. The great battle at the Junction took place on Sunday the 21<sup>st</sup> commencing in the morning and lasting until about five o'clock pm. I won't give you the particulars of the battle for I suppose you don't care about hearing them but I will say and know it to be true that the sole cause of our army retreating was on account of the cowardice and inability of some of the inferior officers (and even generals) to direct and lead the men. The division that our Reg't was in was a reserved corps posted to cut off the retreat of the enemy or to be called on in case of necessity they were not called on till the retreat commenced and consequently we were not in the heat of the battle. Our Reg't was called at half past five to protect Greens Battery which consisted of thirty pieces and was very valuable [sic] and which was attached by a large force of infantry and calvary [sic] under the command of Ben McCulloch of Texas called the black riders which we did with coolness and entire success.

We retreated slowly and reluctantly the calvary [sic] following us about three miles coming quite near us several times when seeing us formed in a hollow square and ready and anxious to receive them every time and having a few effective shots sent among them from Greens Battery emptying the saddles of a good many of them (one riderless horse we captured and have with us now). They went back not even coming near enough to give us a shot at them with our muskets and with the conclusion I think what they couldn't frightened us as they did some of the other regiments.

While the greatest part of the army was retreating in the wildest confusion with no enemy pursuing them our regiment was cool and retreated in good order at least Scott has sent us his complements for the good order we observed in retreating.

But we are back to camp now and expect to have east times again.

Ed Camp\* is writing to his Sue and is also writing a description of me through her request and he has just made me promise that you and I should make them a visit as soon as we return home.

I have just been reading your last letter and discover that you wish to know if I would be willing to have my likeness just in that said locket. Without taking the trouble to consider the matter seriously I will give my consent. Julia, I've written you two letters and two home since I've been here and have not heard from them and to make up for this I want you to write at least two or three and send them on immediately. Pleas excuse me for writing with a pencil for I had no ink.

Direct to Washington as before and oblige your George.

CAMP TYLER  
SEPT 20 / 61

Dear Julia

Your welcome letter of the 10<sup>th</sup> (welcome is no name for it and I could think of none that would satisfy my feelings) did not find me in my cottage by the sea, but as you rightly supposed we have left Alexandria and your letter found me in the fort on Lees' farm.

The fort is six miles from Alexan. and three and a half miles from Munson's hill the exterior lines of the rebels. Perhaps you would like to have a description of it. It is oblong in shape being fifty rods in length and the average width about ten rods.

There is a ditch around this fort twelve feet wide and nine feet deep. The dirt taken out of this ditch was used to form the parapet which is eight feet high affording a secure shelter against muskets or artillery. There are four covered pits in the inside to protect the men from the bursting of shells. They have just commenced mounting the guns which are sixty pounders. They are nice ones and will soon be ready to send forth their peals for the union. Three companies of our Reg't were sent there yesterday [sic] the 19<sup>th</sup> for guard duty during the day and night.

While there General McClellan and staff visited the fort and were received with three cheers and a tiger. I had charge of a relief and as he approached us we saluted him with a present arms. In return he gave no more than a common salute lifting his cap as he passed.

There was a pleasant smile on his face and his style just suited the men, who remarked that they would fight to the last with such a general. He is of medium size, looks to be thirty-five, is noble looking has a piercing eye, and is very gentlemanly appearing. He knows that it is essential, to be successful, to have the love and confidence of the soldiers. He visits the numerous camps and forts, takes particular pains to talk to the soldiers and whenever he goes makes a good and lasting impression. There is no such name as McClellan among the soldiers. I notice that you wonder concerning the result of the battle that has been expected to take place every day for the past two weeks. There is no doubt in my mind as to the result nor in any man's mind here who is acquainted with the position and condition of the two respective armies. Should Beauregard hazard an attack for which our whole army is anxiously wishing his men would easily be defeated and destroyed. We learned from southern papers and deserters who are coming over to our lines every day that Beauregard [sic] had promised his friends that he should make the attack before, or certainly as soon as the twentieth. If he had intended to make an attack with any show of success he should make it two weeks ago. Our \_\_\_\_\_ not \_\_\_\_\_ there and \_\_\_\_\_ were twenty chances in his favor then to one now. The rebellion has assumed its greatest \_\_\_\_\_ portions possible but it isn't sufficient to insure success. The tide of secession has already changed and I think, at least in three months, it will be pretty much played out. I almost forgot to tell you where our camp was situated. It is on Alexandria Heights a pleasant and healthful place. It is three miles from Alexandria and near the noted seminary which is decidedly the biggest thing that \_\_\_\_\_.

There are twenty camps within a half mile of ours, and farther on, tents can be seen as far as the eye can reach. A splendid flag was presented to our Reg't the 19<sup>th</sup> sent

here by the patriotic ladies of the far off eldorado. Senators Latham and McDougal made excellent speeches and are also from California.

CAMP NEWTON  
OCT 27 / 61

Dear Julia

I haven't much time to write what \_\_\_\_\_ what I have and let you know that I am well and that I arrived safely at one old camp if nothing more. After we parted at your home which wasn't very pleasant for me I went home then went to the Depot and as I suppose you are aware we started for New York City on the night train. We reached New York Tuesday morning and remained there till Wednesday morning. We got another recruit in New York by the name of Winchell who is Pauls\* cousin and a relative of the Winchells in Caroline. We were glad to get him for he is good looking and a smart appearing young man. We left New York Wednesday morning for Washington via Philadelphia. We had an interesting and pleasant ride.

We passed through several large cities over several rivers and we were in five different states in one day and also in the District of Columbia.

We arrived at Washington Wednesday evening six o'clock and remained there till the next day. We went down the Potomac [sic] Thursday to Alexandria and the same day went up to our camp when we arrived all right and well. Pauls' [sic] and Jims' curiosity I think was somewhat excited on the rode coming and also after we got in camp but they will soon get broke in and things won't seem so strange.

Ben Spaulding\* was over to Halls' Hill one day while I was home and saw all the boys. He said they were all well and liked soldiering pretty well but didn't like Capt. Walker very well nor their regiment.

Their camp is six miles from ours. I would like to go over to see John and Jim but six miles is quite a distance and I can't be away from our Company so long very well. Everything is quiet here and affairs are about the same as they were when I left. To the right of us the rebels have been falling back and our troops advancing. I don't know whether our brigade will advance soon or not.

When I reach camp I heard the sad news that Leiut Wagner was dead. He was taken sick with the typhoid fever two weeks before I started for home. He was very much loved and respected by all the men of our company and they all deeply feel his loss. He was a good officer, a brave man, and a gentleman. He is the first man that has died in our company.

Dear Julia it is hard to be away from you but how can any man who has any love for his country stay at home. He wouldn't be doing his duty and wouldn't be considered a man. I greatly miss you and you are ever in my thoughts as usual. The pleasing thought that we shall meet and not part is everything to me.

Eugene Simpson looks as well as ever

Yours as usual  
Geo Wolcott

CAMP NEWTON  
DEC 1 / 61

My Dear Julia

Another week is passed and Sunday has come again and still affairs are the same here, that is we have had no orders to move yet and no one knows here when we will have.

Some think that we will remain here all winter some think we won't, and some don't know what to think.

The troops are anxious to move and hate the thought of staying here during the winter. The preparations that McClellan is making look like moving and lead me to think that he will make a grand advance before long. I hope it won't be long for the sooner he advances the sooner the rebellion will be crushed. A result for which no one looks more anxiously forward than I. I am well and having easy times. This is pleasant enough yet there is something else you know what it is Julia that isn't so pleasant.

But anticipations of the future and your letters keep my spirits up and the fair prospect of having our country again free, and the expectation of having one like you to share the joys and sorrows of this life with is encouraging and consoling and figures an important part towards driving away sorrow.

Julia if it were that I could bear both your sorrow and mine and leave you free from trouble it would make the load much lighter for me. I will close this by again expressing the earnest wish that we may be favored, as we have been, with good health for which favor I sincerely thank him to whom we owe all.

Although it is the first day of winter it is quite pleasant here. We are having some pleasant weather and some that isn't. The weather is quite changeable. There will be three or four days warm and pleasant and then one or two rainy and no so pleasant. I am prepared for either in the way of clothing.

I have a pair of boots that come up to my knees and are proof against wet and cold. I have plenty of good woolen stockings also plenty of other cloths. I have good blankets and can sleep quite comfortable. The health of the company is very good better than it has been at any other time since we have been in Virginia. There are no cases of fever in our company and I don't know as there are in the regiment. There are five or six not well and not very sic k. The most of the sickness is caused by careless and foolish exposure. Eugen [sic] Simpson\* is well and back to the company.

Your letter of the 21<sup>st</sup> was received and has been perused several times. Julia, trust I wondered whom those persons might be that had been saying such things about you and felt as though I would like to have a short talk with them. In most every community you will find some \_\_\_\_\_ persons who delight in hurting one's feelings. Although it is unpleasant yet I think it is best as your mother says, and I would like to be near you to say don't mind what they say Dear if we do as near as we can what is required of us that is sufficient.

CAMP NEWTON  
DEC 15 / 61

My Dear Julia

Sunday has come again and as we have no duty to perform I take this time to write you. We are still at Camp Newton and it looks now as though we will remain here some time.

The most of the men of our Reg't have been preparing winter quarters. We intend to be comfortable while we stay here. Sergt Camp (whom I think more of than I did) and I have been building us a house. Perhaps you would like to have a description of it. We will write one as it won't be long.

The frame is eight by nine feet and is five feet high made of three by four scantling. This is enclosed with pine boards, matched, which makes it air tight. The roof is nothing more or less than our tent which is placed on the wood part. We have a door with all the fixings, door handle, etc.

We have a good floor, also a stove. We have got things arranged nicely inside and although our house is small yet we think it is a very large thing. We have been having most beautiful weather. The nights especially are splendid. The moon and stars appear the same as they do at Motts Corners but the air is not the same it being mild and balmy here.

I don't wonder that they call it the sunny south. There is no news from this part of the army of much importance. Military affairs remain about the same and it is quiet along the lines. Friday the 13<sup>th</sup> I witnessed a scene that I haven't witnessed before and I hope it will be the last that I shall see and the last that will take place in the Union army. It was the shooting of a deserter. His name was Wm. H. Johnson, a private in the Lincoln Cavalry. He left his camp and when near the enemies lines he met a party of Union soldiers whom he supposed to be rebs and expressed his joy that he had made his escape. The officer in command had a private conversation with him when he freely and anxiously gave such information as would have been of great importance to the rebels. He was arrested and much to his surprise he discovered his mistake when he was taken back to his own camp a prisoner. The execution took place in the presence of about eight thousand soldiers belonging to Franklin's division. A detachment [sic] of twelve men were detailed for the purpose. Eight first fired when Johnson fell upon his coffin but life being not extinct the other four fired with the required effect. It was a sad sight but I suppose it was just.

I am perfectly well and Paul\* is well as usual. I received your letter of the 3<sup>rd</sup> last Wednesday. Thursday our company was camp guard, Friday we went to see the deserter shot and Saturday we didn't do much of anything but I thought I would wait till today to write as one day wouldn't make much difference.

That \_\_\_\_\_ was sweet and precious and is the only one I've had since I saw you. The reading of your letter did me good as usual. I can't picture how dear they are to me. I do not pore over them wither the mad heat of fickle passion but I make them my study, another proof that I love you with a firm and well balanced affection. And of that ardent enduring cast ever the same and that would stand the test of a life time.

I was surprised to learn that Willis had acted the part of a hypocrite. Although he is a boy of not any to good principles yet I thought he had more honor and was more of a

man than to act so basely mean. I think a person must have a brutish heart and one devoid of all humanity and one little better than a traitor that would act such a part.  
I remain the same  
Your George

CAMP NEWTON  
JAN 1 / 62

My Dear Julia

I tender to you the compliments of the season.

Although our happiness hasn't been what we might expect during this year just closed, still we have great cause of gratitude to a merciful providence for the blessings that we have enjoyed, and for the coils from which we have escaped.

The lessons so dearly brought by many of our people and states will be long remembered and may they have an abiding influence on our individual as well as our National future and above all may we be convinced of the grand fact that there is an over ruling Power that guides and directs the affairs of the children of men.

The most eventful year in the history of our country has closed. As I lay in my tent last night I considered the past, present, as well as the future state of our country. This was not all the occupied my thoughts. Dear Julia as usual received the greatest attentions.

With a greatful [sic] recognition to providence for its kind control over the destinies of our Nation in the past, we can but breathe the fervent prayer as we observe the decreasing magnitude of the rebellion and the indications of its speedy downfall.

At the close of another year may we see this land, now disrupted, again the happy home of a single people, prosperous, happy and free. I also looked over the ledger of my last years life. Although it was imperfect yet it might have been a great deal worse and I was glad to see the accounts as good as they were. Julia I don't think that I am naturely [sic] very wicked. My hope is and always has been I believe for good, not evil. However this may be I resolve today to act in such a manner that at the close of the year 62 I may review it and see a marked improvement.

This don't seem like former New Years and I don't believe it is a happy one to all. If I were by your side I could then think it as happy one. It seems strange that although it is the second month of winter there has been no snow here yet and today it is almost as warm as summer. Ben Spaulding\* and I went over to Washington the day before Christmas and stayed two days. We had quite a pleasant and interesting time. We visited the Capitol and the fountain, the navy yard which via is no small thing and also the camps of the 50th and 64<sup>th</sup> regts. I saw Ed Marsh\*, Walker Personious\*, John and James, Tip and Al Snow\*, John Boice\*, Le Fralick\* and a good many others that we knew. They were all well except John and I think he is as well as he ever will be. I called to see him twice. He was very sick and hardly knew me. I think that he has the quick consumption. The doctor said that his lungs were nearly gone and that there was no reasonable ground to think he would recover.

The boys said they would certainly write me every two or three days but I've not heard from them. Ed Marsh\* is here and says he saw James three days ago and John was no better then.

JAN 2d—62

I intended to finish my letter yestaday [sic] and should had it not been for friends coming to see me from other regts. Ed Marsh\* was here and looks quite gay. Henry Hoffman\* has been here and his appearance quite surprised me. Instead of seeing the green looking boy I saw a splendid looking man. He is a member of the first Reg't of Pa Cavalry. He was in the late battle at \_rainsville and told me the details of the fight.

I received your Christmas' letter three days ago. It was the best gift and most thought of I received. You wish to know how I felt while witnessing the execution of Johnson. My feelings were not very much affected. I pitied the poor man but knowing that he deserved death I was willing and though it was right that he should die according to military law. When a thing has got to be done I believe in doing it as coolly as possible.

I don't think there will be much trouble with England at present. The difficulty I understand has been settled. It was humiliating and I like many others reluctantly concluded that it was the best and safest policy to give Mason & Slidell up. The settlement of the trust affair is a subject for public congratulations. We were in the midst of a war for the preservation of our National existence. It was evident that in the event of hostilities growing out of the trust affair not only England but France would be against us. To thoughtful men the question appeared a grave one, involving our humiliation by England, or the rebels in arms against our government. The President and his cabinet I suppose concluded that it would be better to suffer this humiliation from England for the present, and take an opportunity to efface the stain after the settlement of our domestic difficulty.

You speak about writing to Bill Voorhess and wish me to say what such a step would lead to. I am sure I can't tell at present what it would lead to. I am a soldier, have the same heart I had before enlisting and I think that I know as much but at the same time I don't know as my prediction would be worth anything. If you wish to write Bill Voorhess and think you can do so with propriety, I will endeavor not to be very jealous. Now Julia allow me to ask you a question. Would I have cause to be or would I not, or would have cause to complain if I considered myself sufficiently intimate with a young lady as to allow me to correspond with her.

I am well and we are having easy times. Paul is well and wished me to remember him kindly to you. I had almost forgot that you wished me a merry Christmas. Well I will thank you kindly and send you my best wished what more can I do.

It was not a merry Christmas nor a happy New Year to me. Your absence was the cause. I will try to be patient and may you hoping that another new year will find us nearer each other and happier.

With a renewed acknowledgement of my affection for you Dear Julia I will close  
Your George

CAMP NEWTON  
JAN 29 / 62

My Dear Julia

I have been expecting a letter from you for a week but day after day brought disappointment and I have been nearly if not quite, home-sick in consequence. It has been two weeks since I have heard from you although it seems much longer. If you knew Julia how very anxious I have been for the past week to hear from you or how disappointed and bad I felt each day as I learned there was not letter for me you could certainly pity me and you could not at all question the love which I profess for you. Today is Wednesday Jan 29<sup>th</sup> warm and pleasant but a little muddy.

I feel more pleasant too not on account of the weather but because I have received a much welcomed letter dated Jan 18<sup>th</sup> from Julia.

After reading and thinking it over I felt more but not wholly satisfied. It satisfied me in one respect that is that you were well but to know that you had trouble was to feel it myself. I am very glad that John has reached home and that he is getting better. When I was him I thought he couldn't live yet it seemed so hard that he should die that I could hardly realize and believe it. I hope he may get well and that he and Clarra [sic] may live a long, happy and useful life.

You speak of the other John Mandeville and leave me in the dark as to the meaning. I shall certainly think more kindly of him if I have a reason.

We still are at our camp in the north of Dixie and there is no prospect of moving soon. The weather has been unpleasant and disagreeable the most of the time for a month the rain, mud and fog being the most conspicuous elements. We have had no cold weather here yet and snow has fallen only at two different times.

I am well and the members of our company are all well except two. These two are James Hawkins\* and Bill Krum\*. James caught cold soon after he came here and he has not got rid of it yet. He is now in the hospital quite sick waiting his papers of discharge. Bill Krum is in the hospital but is nearly well.

There is no news of importance from this part of the army but I suppose there will be as soon as the weather becomes settled. Then I presume that will be a grand advance made. The prospect of a speedy termination of the war is very favorable and unless the ribid [sic] Republicans in Congress prevent "Little Mac" and Sec Stanton from carrying out their plans this rebellion will be crushed within four months.

I have a card photograph of Gen Franklin and as he is good looking and has such a pretty mouth I have concluded to send it to you. Pleas [sic] give me your opinion in your next.

Julia I want to see you very, very, much and it makes me almost mad at the thought.

Yours in war and I hope I may be yours in peace  
G Wolcott

Army of the Potomac  
CAMP NEWTON  
FEB 6 / 62

My Dear Julia

I received your kind letter dated Jan 26<sup>th</sup> yestaday [sic] It was a long time coming. It ought to have been here a week ago. I suppose there is no one to blame but the weather which has damaged the roads and consequently makes the transportation much slower than usual.

I was very happy to receive it and it afforded me much comfort, although you called me a nasty traitor. I protest against you turning philosopher as you spoke of. You may have a reason to do so but if you think you have please forget it and do write every week. I will try to write every week. Circumstances may be such that I will be unable to do this then Julia you can't blame me and if you have a reason to find fault with me scold me but don't suppose for a moment that I could or would intentionally neglect you. You have been very kind to me, perhaps more than I deserve. I have endeavored to merit your love and kindness and if I haven't it is certainly not the fault of my heart. I appreciate and often think of your kindness, and dear, good, Julia is in my mind continually. Those two words (soar throat) frightened me. I never saw two more ugly looking words. On the other hand I was very thankful to learn that you were better and I couldn't do otherwise than to appreciate Johnirs' kindness.

Reading that part of your letter that spoke of you sitting in our corner of the sofa and dreaming caused my heart to beat quick and almost unnerved me. I won't try to say how happy I would be to sit by you again in that well remembered corner for my feelings are stronger than words than I can write.

You say that you had always an aching heart in the ball room. I am glad you did, and I think more of you in consequence. It has been the same with me. I never felt right in a ballroom. There was always something in my heart that told me I ought not to be there. I remember the half-way-house and the time we were there, but I don't remember what I said to you. I should like to have you remind me of it.

I am well and the members of our company are all well except Bill Krum\* and James Hawkins\* and they are getting better.

Camp\*, Davidson and I are having what we call a big time. Each of them has received a box containing Turkeis, Cakes, honey, different kinds of sauce, sausage etc. It has been very dark and dreary these past few weeks. We have had rain, hail, snow, sleet and a deluge of mud. The warm sun however has almost banished the inclement weather and we look again upon bright skies. There is a change in other respects and with the warm and gentle weather we six hope and confidence. We have just had news of another victory gained by our troops in Tennessee. This is the hardest blow the rebels have received and will add much towards the consummation of this war.

With many kind wishes and God bless you I remain your  
George

LEESBURG TURNPIKE  
FEB 13 / 62

My Dear Julia

I received your long, good, cheering and satisfactory letter mailed the 7<sup>th</sup> yestaday [sic]. I also received the book you were so kind to send me. You are very kind and I shall not forget it. I have never read the book and I have no doubt it will be interesting. Except my many thanks dearest Julia both for the book and the sentiment of your letter. I am perfectly well, and feeling as well as may be, under the circumstances. I have been well ever since I saw you. I haven't ever had a cold. Why this is so I suppose is because I have been careful of myself. It seems much easier to keep well than to keep up one's spirits. It has caused me at lease some exertion to do this. I care nothing about soldiers hardships but to be absent from a loved one whom I hold dearer than all else on this earth, for months, is somewhat trying.

Although this is so much contrary to my wished I can bear it and if your health remains good and I can hear from you I will be satisfied. As I have said before your letters are every thing to me. When I had read you letter I could not help to feel what you have often kindly remarked that God is good and that He had blesses us and would bless us. Then Julia it is better to hope for the best and be as patient as may be.

Since I wrote you last we have had remarkable pleasant weather. The mud has mostly disappeared, the fields begin to look green and everything bears a more pleasing aspect.

Yestaday [sic] Mr. Hawkins and James\* started for home. I am glad James has gone for \_\_\_\_\_ reasons. At one time before his Father came I was afraid that he would die here. We did all we could for him but I suppose I would have been blamed merely because he came here with me if nothing more. He got along very well for the first two weeks that he was here then he must have lost what little resolution and spirit he had for he appeared as though he was trying to hate himself to death. I talked and did my best to encourage him but it was entirely without effect. He was really homesick and it was useless to talk to him. As soon as his Father came he opened his eyes and showed signs of life. I don't intend this as ridicule nor do I wish him any harm. There is no soldier about him and therefore it is no place for him in the army.

Our company is on the Leesburg road doing picket duty. We came out here Monday and are to remain till Sunday. We have good quarters and eat times. The privates have a barn for their quarters. The Capt and Sergeants a house opposite. The house is a large one and was formerly occupied by a wealthy Virginian one of the F F V. I suppose he is now farther south and may be in the rebel army. The room we occupy is a large one and has a large fireplace, a common thing in this part of Virginia. \_\_\_\_\_ when we were on picket on the river turnpike I was in the house in which Gen. Washington courted his wife. The house is small and I saw nothing remarkable about it except the old style.

Before this reaches you I suppose you will hear of the victory gained by Burnside and his brave troops. This is the most important success of the war on our side and the most damaging to the rebels. If this success is followed up important communications will be cut off. Norfolk can be taken and more important still the army at Manasses [sic] can be outflanked. This army will have to leave its strong hold at Manasses [sic] or run

the great risk of being outflanked and taken. The plans of "Little Mac" have begun to work and two months from this time men will begin to comprehend what they are at a loss to do now the magnitude and value of them.

It is my opinion now that the war will be short and desperate and the success of the Union army is certain. The rebels may fight bravely but their defeat is as certain as their cause is unjust. The prospect is certainly more cheering and gives us a reason to hope. If our cause is just we must surely conquer for their whole force even if they had every man and boy of the south in their army would not be able to oppose successfully the Union army.

May right and truth triumph

Your George

Camp Newton

Feb 18 / 62

My Dear Julia

In commencing this letter allow me to congratulate you upon the glorious news which before this reaches you will be heralded to the world.

We received news last night to the effect that Fort Donelson had surrendered [sic] to the arms of the republic including its whole armament, 15000 rebel troops and three of their distinguished and trusted generals. It was too much glory for one night and today the excitement is still raging. In all the camps in this vicinity men are jubilant and almost wild with joy.

The news of the past week is indeed sufficient cause for unusual excitement and rejoicing.

The Batteries this morning have been firing salutes in honor of the great victory. The exciting thunder tones which emanated from the cannon's mouth was glad music to my ears. It not only spoke victory but told me that this war would be of short duration and that it would not be very long before I could go home. Now if this don't look just like stepping from the sublime to the ridiculous to speak of myself self in connection with a great victory. I am always making blunders but you are the cause of this one.

Last night you, dearest and best Julia and the glad tidings of victory had a happy meeting in my thoughts and I am sure that I felt the importance and effect of the recent victories as much as man could. The prospect becomes brighter every day.

Each passing hour brings more strikingly the conviction that the suppression of the rebellion is near at hand. The McClellan ananconda [sic] is winding its folds strongly about it. The glorious old flag again proudly floats in the heart of Tennessee and is hailed with joyous acclamation by the union citizens.

Johnson is flying before Buell. Price is hastening to get out of Missouri. The rebel army of the Potomac is already shut up and surrounded on all sides. Mobile and New Orleans will soon fall before the Union arms. Their long cherished hopes of foreign

interference are crushed. These are a few of the many indications that show the reduction of the rebellion to be inevitable. It is idle for them to attempt to combat destiny and lift their hands against the irresistible power that is being brought against them. They have got to yield, hurrah, hurrah, hurrah.

I received your letter dated the 8<sup>th</sup> this morning. Notwithstanding the great excitement in camp your kind letter was read with as much interest as ever. That pretty flower and the kind words underneath attracted especial attention. I wish I had something good to send you but I haven't and I can only return you my thanks.

Godley has been home recruiting but this morning returned to his company. I am well and having quite easy times.

We are having rainy weather again and consequently much extensively abounds. Now I thin I had better stop so good bye for the present.  
Your George

CAMP NEWTON  
MARCH 7 / 62

My Dear Julia

In commencing I will first acknowledge the receipt of another of your good letters dated Feb 16<sup>th</sup>. I was glad to hear from you and your letter as usual did me much good.

As time passes and my absence becomes longer I become more and more anxious to hear form you and it would take more than the English Language to express how much I wish to see you. As it pleases you better, hereafter I will direct to Motts Corners. While Mr. Hawkins was here we did all we could conveyently [sic] to entertain him and make him comfortable. I think he was very well pleased with his stay here and he appeared to enjoy himself. I have written you once a week for a long time but if you don't get them so often for the next month you must not blame me. I will write once a week if possible. We had orders to get ready to march three days ago. When we shall go is not known here. We are under marching orders and we may have orders to march within a week but it may be two weeks before we travel and we may not go at all. I know this Julia that wherever I go your dear image will go with me. Julia you are in my thoughts continually and it seems to me as though you were a part of my own being and that I am living for you alone. I am perfectly well and I am encourage to know that this war is to short. McClellans plans begin to develop themselves and are doing their sure work.

Since I wrote you last we have had winter, autumn, spring, and summer. We have had a hurricane, too.

Monday the 24<sup>th</sup> we had one of the severest gales here I ever witnessed. The night preceeding [sic] we had rain and it was quite warm. In the morning it commenced blowing from the northwest and continued to increase till it became a perfect gale, not being satisfied, it kept on increasing and about noon it had increased to such a degree that I think it would be safe to call it a hurricane. It swepted [sic] on regardless of the destruction it was causing, blowing down trees, tents and nearly everything in its way. There was some gain however with the loss. It blew away the hated mud which more

than compensates for the loss. We have had pleasant weather since and today seems like the summer.

Last night we had quite an excitement in camp caused by a fire. The old seminary, a large building, which is in our camp caught fire. It is used for a brigade hospital and Gen. Franklin has his head quarters in it also.

There was a large quantity of powder in it which fortunately the fire didn't reach. Some helped to remove the sick, some the powder, and the rest worked at the fire which after burning an hour and a half they succeeded in extinguishing. No more at present. Be patient and hopeful Julia and God bless you  
Your George

CAMP NEWTON  
MARCH 9 / 62

My Dear Julia

It is Sunday, the day is beautiful, being nearly as warm as summer, and we are yet in our old Camp. When I wrote to you last I supposed we would have marched before this. We have been under marching orders 10 days but we don't know any more than we did at first when we will have orders to advance. I think it will depend upon the weather and the condition of the roads. The weather for the past week has been quite pleasant. The mud is drying up fast and every thing begins to look like summer.

Lyman Hardenburg, Tom Martin\*, and B Yates were here yesterday. Bown is well and said he liked soldiering vastly. Martin said he was well but I think he isn't as well as he might be. I asked him is he had heard from his friends in Caroline lately. He said no, and that was all that was said about friends. I received you letter dated Feb 22 4 days ago and one today dated March 1<sup>st</sup>. They afforded me much consolation and satisfaction Julia and they told me that my love was truly reciprocated. To know this and that you are well Dear Julia is my first wish and prayer.

I think of you by day and go to sleep at night thinking of you and when I awake in the morning I am not surprised to find Julia still in my thoughts. I might as well stop this Julia for I can't write my thoughts any more than I can write how dear you are to me.

That dream you described in you letter of the 22d was quite a strange one I think and it couldn't have been very pleasant to the dreamer. I never believed that dreams were any indications of the future and I never shall now. It is singular how extravagant dreams are sometimes isn't. They most always paint the picture awful or very nice. Dreams must be singular individuals but as long as they bring me out of trouble all right I shant complain. In one of your letters you wished me to write you the meaning of these letters F F V as I understand it they mean the first families of Virginia or in other words the aristocracy of Virginia.

Your last letter was very kind and good and it effected [sic] me very much.

Monday morning the 10th four O'clock -- We had orders last evening about seven o'clock to be ready to march at daylight. I expect we are going to Fairfax on a reconnoissance [sic]. I haven't but a little time to write so I will tell you where Gen Banks

is and close. He is on the upper Potomac near Harpers Ferry about 40 miles from here. Gen. Franklin is near Alexandria and is to advance in a different direction. I will have to bid you good morning. May God bless and keep you safe.

Faithfully

Your George

CAMP NEWTON

MAR 15 / 62

My Dear Julia

I presume you will be surprised at the date of this letter, or rather place of date, and to learn that we are in our old camp again. As I wrote you last Monday morning Franklins division took up their line of march at 8 o'clock of the same day and we arrived at Fairfax Court House at half past six pm. Nearly the whole army of the Potomac marched the same day. We encamped quietly at the above mentioned place and we remained there until Friday.

Tuesday morning we were surprised and disappointed to learn that the rebels had evacuated Centreville and the renowned Manasses [sic] Junction. We expected to get orders to march on Tuesday but now came. Gen. McClellan visited Manasses [sic] Tuesday and Wednesday the Generals held a council of war at Fairfax Court House.

I don't know what they decided upon farther than this – that three Divissions [sic] are to go down the Potomac and Franklin's division is one of them. The other two I understand are McCalls and McDowells. This explains why we returned to camp. We are going down the river on transports and we will remain here till they are got ready. We may go tomorrow and we may not go in two or three days. Our destination I suppose is at Norfolk or Richmond Va.

The reason that the rebs left Manasses [sic] is simply this, I suppose – they knew well that their army was no match for McClellans. By retreating they have saved their army for the present but they are not out of danger and will soon have to retreat again or fight which I don't think they have much taste for with the Potomac army.

I have received no letter from you this week but I shall expect one tomorrow certain. I am perfectly well Julia and I intend or at least I shall do my best to remain so.

I am glad that the Potomac army has commenced operations in the offensive for I think it will do more than all the others in putting an end to this rebellion.

We returned to camp at 2 o'clock today and you can see what I've been doing since. I will write you every opportunity.

Do be as hopeful and patient as you can Dear Julia and may God bless and keep you safe.

Your George

CAMP NEWTON  
MARCH 25 / 62

My Dear Julia

Eleven days ago, when we returned from Fairfax Court House, we all supposed that we would have gone down the river before this date, but we have not and we are yet in our old camp. We are all well, the weather is beautiful and we are having easy times. The mud has disappeared, the fields being to look green and everything is beginning to have the appearance of summer.

WEDNESDAY MORNING MAR 26

The weather is still pleasant and we are all well. I had just commenced writing yesterday morning when the first Sergeants [sic] call beat and therefore I had to lay my papers aside and report myself to the adjutant to learn what was wanted. It was this – to have the men get ready for a grand review that was to come off after dinner. To do this – it was necessary to have the men black their boots & shoes, to clean their rifles, to black their cartridge boxes, to wash their white gloves, etc.

Perhaps you would like to know why the soldiers wear white gloves. It is to keep their hands from tanning of course. The review came off after dinner and it was a grand and thrilling sight.

The troops present, consisted of Gen Franklins, McCalls and Kleings [?] divisions, numbering about 40 thousand men. These three divisions constitute a corps of the army of the Potomac under the command of Gen McDowell. The troops were reviewed by Gen's McClellan and McDowell. It surpassed anything of the kind since the grand review of 70 thousand men last summer. Among the distinguished spectators present was the adjutant Gen'l of Canada.

The 50<sup>th</sup> Reg't is encamped a half a mile from us and I see James Mandeville nearly every day. He is well and appears to be feeling well. They expect to go down the river with McDowell's corps. McClellan's head quarters are in the seminary a few rods from our camp and we have the pleasure of seeing him quite often. Our Reg't gave him a serenade a few nights since which passed off quite satisfactory.

I received your letters one dated the 8<sup>th</sup> the other the 18<sup>th</sup> and I have read them over and over with much interest. I don't understand how that report was started that our army had lost six thousand men at Manasses [sic]. There were only about 2 thousand went as far as Manasses [sic], the army halted this side. There was not a man killed. Charley Bradley receives letter from Maggie but I haven't heard him speak of her lately.

Julia I long to see you and the pain I feel in consequence is almost too much to bear. The prospect is becoming more cheering every day. I think by the fourth of July the fighting will be over and most of the troops discharged.

Yours faithfully G. Wolcott

CAMP NEWTON  
APR 2 / 62

My Dear Julia

I received your kind letter dated the 23d today. I was more anxious than ever to hear from you. To hear that you are well and that you are endeavoring to be as patient and hopeful as you you can, is the best news for which I could wish. We remain in our old camp yet but it is pretty certain that we will not stay here another week. There have over a hundred thousand troops embarked at Alexandria, which comprise nearly all the troops that are going down the Potomac except Gen. McDorvells corps. I understand his corps will commence embarking tomorrow and as Franklins division will be the last to embarke [sic] I think it will be nearly a week before we go.

We don't know yet where we are going to land but we suppose it will be somewhere near Norfolk or Richmond, Va.

We are all well and enjoying ourselves as well as may be under the circumstances. We have had very pleasant weather for the past three weeks and today it is still pleasant and quite warm.

There was quite an excitement last week in camp caused by the report that Miss Kate Dean and Miss Yoke of Ithaca had arrived in camp and proposed to sing for the benefit of the regiment. We learned afterwards that it was more for pay than for the amusement of the men. They sang before the Reg't twice. They made a good appearance and their singing elicited much applause. Miss Yoke played the Piano and sang alto – she didn't appear to be embarrassed at all and played and sang remarkable well. They sang several patriotic songs the best of which were the first two they sang, entitled McClellan's Our Leader, and We Are Marching Down to Dixie. They are accompanied by Kates Father. They remained here 4 days.

They made us a call one evening which quite surprised us. Camp lay asleep, Davidson and I were reading when hearing someone at the door. We said all right come in, as we supposed they were some of the boys. The door was opened and to our great astonishment we beheld the celebrated singers before us. We asked them to waltz in and they did waltz right in.

We had a good joke on Camp and we all had to laugh to see him get up. They asked us just a 1000 questions and then took their exit.

John Bush was here last Friday stayed with us Friday night and started for Washington Saturday at noon. I was glad to see him and he appeared to be glad to see me.

I went around with him to show him the sights, at which he was very much pleased. We had a long talk and quite a pleasant time.

He wish to see Gen. McClellan and his wish was gratified as we were talking of him Gen McClellan and Gen McDowell rode up to Franklin's headquarters. He considered himself fortunate and he appeared to be very quickly delighted to see the celebrated General.

Please direct your letters the same as you did the last, except add Franklin's divission [sic].

With many kind wishes I remain truly yours  
G. Wolcott

ALEXANDRIA  
SUNDAY, APR 12 / 62

My Dear Julia

I am in Alexandria again and as I have a little spare time I thought I would write you, to let you know where I am and that I am perfect well if nothing more.

I see that I've told you this already and as you may wish to know where we have been and why we have come back etc. I will try to inform you.

One week ago today we got aboard the Cars at Alexandria and rode to Bristol Station Six miles from Manasses [sic] Junction. We had a pleasant ride and an interesting time as we were all quite anxious to see Manasses [sic] Junction and its fortifications. Their fortifications were not as strong as they have been represented and could have easily been taken.

We lay encamped at Bristol Station 4 days on account of a severe storm which continued at three days without cesasion [sic]. Friday we moved on and had nearly reached Warrenton Station 12 miles beyond Manasses [sic] when being halted we were told that Franklins division had received orders to return to Alexandria and was to go down the river to reinforce Gen McClellan.

We marched back to Bristol station and pitched our tents on the same ground we had left in the morning. We remained at this place Friday night and Saturday we started for Alexandria. Some walked and the rest rode on the Cars. I rode on the Cars and reached Alexandria Saturday night. I am now at Mr. Mose's a citizen of Alex a gentleman and a good union man. His wife is for the union also and is a very clever lady indeed.

The Steamships are at the wharf and we expect to embarke [sic] in the morning. I received your letter dated the 31<sup>st</sup> Friday night 9 o'clock at Bristol Station. Nothing could have been more welcome except your own presence. The farther I get from you Julia the more I think of you, the better I love you, and the more anxious I am to hear from you. We have a good deal to do to get ready to embarke [sic] therefore please excuse this. Please direct your letters the same as you have except direct to Washington. DC and add Franklins divission [sic].

With many kind thoughts I remain faithfully yours,  
Geo Wolcott

ON BOARD THE COLUMBIA NEAR SHIP POINT  
APR 27/62

My Dear Julia

We are still on board the Columbia near Ship Point. It is a beautiful morning and some \_\_\_\_\_ by observing call the scene presented from our position a pleasing sight. We are surrounded by the waters of the Chesapeake Bay, the land may be seen in the distance and over a hundred and fifty said including Steamships, Schooners, Sloop, Steam\_\_ngs, Brigs, Gunboats etc lay at anchor in every direction. I don't enjoy it, Julia as I might under different circumstances. The pleasant day and the excitement don't

prevent me from thinking of you, nor do they lessen the pain which has become so common, yet no less perceptible which I have felt on account of that long, and seemingly dreadful absence. I can bear it Julia but I am not contented nor don't wish to be until I can again be with you.

I have just received and read your kind and very interesting letter of the 12. It afforded me satisfaction and comfort and the news was interesting indeed and part strange and wonderful. The first of your letter especially interested me. I was happy to learn that those who told you that you would grow used to my absence by and by and not mind it so much were wrong in their opinion for it tells me that you love me well. I, in growing used to this absence, instead of missing you less know that I miss you more and more. Like yourself I could never grow used to it. Julia you know I never had much confidence in dreams and I shall certainly have none in this one, that told you I was false. I know I have given you no cause yet and may I never to give you reason to think me false.

You ask me several questions which my heart answered as I read them much sooner than I can write the answers.

The desire or whatever you may call it with which I look forward to the time when I may return to you and press the hand and see that well remembered and dear face again, is such and is so far above all my other worldly desires alone proves that I love you well and truly.

I don't know as there is any difference in our love for each other, but I know this Julia that if you love me as well as I do you I shall not complain. I know that I would sacrifice [sic] more for you if necessary than for everything else and I am very sure that I love you better than any earthly thing. I have sought no pleasure and I have not had the least desire to seek pleasure when absent from you not only since I have been in the army but since that evening that Rich and I intended to take a ride and I stayed with you. Since that time I could take no pleasure without you nor do I wish to unless you can share with me.

I am perfectly well and I have had nothing to do with any consequence since leaving Alexa.

This is the seventh day we have been here and we don't know yet when we will land nor at what place.

The most important news we have heard today is that a whole brigade in the rebel army at Yorktown has refused to fight the union troops and had their arms in consequence taken from them and themselves held as prisoners. No one knows when the fight will come off at Yorktown but the opinion is that it will be soon.

I saw Capt. Personius yesterday. He is well and says James is well.

I must stop so good bye.

Faithfully yours, George

ON THE ROAD TO RICHMOND 3 MILES BEYOND KENT COURTHOUSE  
MAY 14 / 62

My Dear Julia

We are under marching orders and expect to move soon therefore you can not blame me for writing on this little sheet. We have been on the march four days advancing towards Richmond. Our progress is slow, but sure.

We are at present encamped in a large field at which place we arrived last night. Fifth thousand troops are encamped in the same field.

Since the battle at West Point we have seen no rebels. I understand this morning that they were 15 miles in advance of this part of the army. The 7<sup>th</sup> of May the day the battle took place at West Point Franklins divission [sic] was very fortunate, more so than at first was supposed. General Lee with 25 thousand troops marched to our lines that day with the intention to annihilate the whole divission[sic]. They might have done this had it not been for the Gunboats, probable. The only troops engaged that day was Newtons brigade.

I was reading the Philadelphia Enquirer this morning and was amused at his account of the battle. It says that Sedgwicks divission [sic] was in the action and speaks of the bravery of the Pennsylvania troops. This was only half of his troops landed at that time and not one of them fired a shot. The Gunboats, 2 field batteries, 3 companies of the 31<sup>st</sup> NY, 3 com of Philadelphia Zouavis and the 32d did the fighting. There were a few other com in the woods belonging to Newtons brigade but they didn't do much fighting. As soon as the 32d came out of the woods the Gunboats opened fire and the rebs fled the 32d lost 67 men killed and wounded.

Sergt Camp was wounded in the instep. He has gone to Fortress Monroe, 4 privates were wounded in Whitlocks com, 2 quite badly. The most of the Officers and men of the 32d behaved well. If you wish to know Julia how I behaved, what I am going to tell you will explain. The day after the battle the Reg't was drawn up in line and Sergt Jones of com H from Tarrytown and I were informed by the Colonel that he had promoted us to Second Lieuteants [sic]. I was assigned to Com G, Capt Myers from N Y City hence you will please direct to Leiunt Wolcott, Com G.

Ben Spaulding\* and Will Krum\* were not in the action. Paul was and stood it quite well. I received your letter mailed the 3d this morning and I was very vary glad to hear from you. I am well. I will have it much easier now as I have nothing to carry except a sword.

My compliments to those you choose

Your same, George

IN CAMP SIX MILES FROM RICHMOND  
JUNE 2 / 62

My Dear Julia

Our Reg't as well as our division [sic] is encamped this side of the Chickahominy 6 miles northeast from Richmond. The country back from the river is beautiful but on each side of the Chickahominy there is a swamp at some points a ¼ mile wide. Porters command and Franklins' compose the right of McClellans army. They have been building bridges and are to remain on this side of the Chick for the present. Day before yesterday there was a severe battle on the left. It commences at 2 o'clock pm and continued till dark. The battle was about five miles from our camp yet we could hear the report of the cannon and rifles distantly. The firing continued for six hours without intermission and the roar of the cannon and musketry was almost deafening.

The Union troops repulsed the rebs everywhere and gained a complete victory. Three companies of our Reg't including the one to which I belong went on picket yesterday morning and have just returned. We had a gay time coming back to camp. We posted our line of pickets in the morning near the river without much trouble. The water continued to rise and before night we were compelled to have our pickets fall back to higher ground. We suppose that we could remain here without the water molesting us. I forgot to say that it rained very hard the whole night before. In the morning we were a little surprised to learn that we were entirely surrounded by water. We held a consultation and we unaminously [sic] agreed that we had to swim to get a shore.

The distance was about 50 rods that we had to wade and swim and we found that it was no small undertaking. We all enjoyed the swim and got through safe.

It will not be long before McClellan makes the attack on Richmond. Their force is a third larger than ours but we are confident and determined that we will win. I received your letter mailed the 15<sup>th</sup> just after I put my last letter in the office and I received one mailed the 23d yesterday. You must know Julia that I was very glad to hear from you. It told me that you were well which I always look for first in your letters. I think the news you wrote me quite astonishing. I suppose Ed thinks now he has certainly the best rig in town. The news I thought was astonishing was in reference to old Martha and Shem. Strange things will happen and this proves it beyond a doubt.

I am well and my duty isn't half as hard as it was before my promotion. I haven't seen Paul since we left the white house but I understand he is not very sick. We have just got marching orders and you may hear of the battle before this reaches you.

Yours, George

IN CAMP NEAR THE CHICKAHOMINY  
JUNE 6 / 62

My Dear Julia

I received another of your kind letters dated May 26<sup>th</sup> yesterday. It has been a long time coming but it would have seemed much longer if I had known that you were unwell. To learn that you were unwell was hard news for me. You were dearer to me than Julia than ever before. I shall be very anxious to receive your next letter and I shall hope and think that it will bring news that you are well again. I think Julia that I could control my feelings under all circumstances when you are out of danger. I have faced the cannon's mouth and can do it again if I am required to with a strong heart but when I learned that you were unwell it proved to me that strong hearts under some circumstances could become the weakest. There are no words that can tell you how greatly I wish to see you Julia I hope you don't blame me for volunteering as I did. I don't see how a man who really felt himself a man could have remained at home when their country so much needed their services. I couldn't and thought I was doing right. I am here now and can do nothing more than hope for the best.

The rebs have made a desperate attempt to turn both the right and left flanks of McClellans army and have failed. McClellan has now the position he wants and can take Richmond with his large guns. I think the hardest battle before Richmond has been fought. Porters and Franklins divisions are encamped on the north side of the Chickahominy between the New bridge and Mechanicsville. Our Reg't is a mile and a half above or to the right of Newbridge. We are about 5 miles northeast of Richmond. The main body of McClellans army has crossed the river below us their right resting a ¼ of a mile below Newbridge.

We are here to prevent the rebs from turning the right of our army. Porters and Franklins division [sic] form the right and the rebs will have an interesting time if they attempt to break our lines. I saw Capt Personius yesterday. He said that he left James sick at the White House. I like Capt Myers very well and also his company. Lewis Cleveland is first Lieut. His Father is a minister and lives in Brooklyn. I received a letter yesterday from Friend Camp who is at home. He said he talked of riding over to Motts Corners and he and Sue may make you a call.

I received my commission yesterday. I rank from May 7<sup>th</sup> the day the battle was fought at West Point. I heard today that Ed Marsh during the battle at the Seven Pines as soon as Capt Glenney was shot deserted his company and left the field. I hope this is not tru [sic] but if it is he ought to be shot.

The weather is pleasant and not very warm. I haven't heard from Paul yet. I am well. Capt Myers and I have just been eating our dinner. We had green peas, greens, etc. We have a good cook and when we are in camp live quite comfortably [sic]. With many kind and earnest wishes that you may be well before this reaches you I close and remain  
Faithfully Yours  
George

IN CAMP ACROSS THE CHICK  
JUNE 24 / 62

My Dear Julia

We have crossed the Chickahominy at last and we are now encamped near the battle field of Fair Oaks. We have had no fighting yet but we have plenty of alarms. Our Reg't fell into line twice last night. The first time at ten o'clock the second about 2 o'clock.

I have visited the battlefield and every thing bears evidence of the desperate battle. The ground is torn up, trees were shot off, and there are many other marks of Cannon balls and bullets.

This is a pretty rough country as far as I have seen. There is some farming land but it is principally swamp and woods. I have seen John Depews grave. I wish I could tell you when we will march into Richmond. McClellans has a good deal to do before we can do this. He has not only fortifications to demolish but he has a brave and desperate enemy to conquer. From what I can learn I should think the rebel army was a third stronger in numbers than McClellans. Our men don't appear to care anything about their numbers. They have all confidence in McClellan. They are confident that when he leads them to battle they will be victorious. There is more sickness in our Reg't at present than there has been at any other time. Two men of Com A have died lately. Leu Atwater of Ithaca is dead. Since I have been here I have learned that. That report I spoke of concerning Ed Marsh was not all true. I saw a member of Glenney com this morning. He told me all about the affair. I won't take the trouble to tell you what the boys say about him, but I have no doubt you will hear. Lieut Jackson of com I has resigned and gone home. I heard this much from Paul. He was taken from the White House about three weeks ago very sick. I suppose he is in a hospital somewhere. He was entirely helpless.

I have received two letters from you since I have written but you musn't scold.

Julia I have written this in a short space of time and you must excuse it.

I am well and remain

Faithfully Your George.

CAMP NEAR HARRISONS LANDING  
JULY 5 / 62

My Dear Julia

This the first opportunity I have had to write since McClellans commenced \_\_\_\_\_ from before Richmond. I am very thankful that I am alive, perfectly well, and all right.

We have been marching and fighting 6 days but I won't attempt to give you a history of our movements during this time for it would take a week. I will say this much that we have had desperate fighting and repulsed the enemy wherever they attacked us. Their force was as large again as ours. McClellans army is now encamped near Harrisons landing on the James river. We have had no fighting yesterday and today. We

have a good position and I don't think the rebs will attack us here. Our loss must be ten thousand in killed wounded and missing. Our Reg't lost about 40 men. The rebel loss must be much greater. Our Reg't has a very pleasant camp about a mile from the river.

JULY 6<sup>th</sup>

I commenced this last night 8 o'clock. I had just commenced it when the adjutant [sic] notified \_\_\_\_\_ that our Reg't was to go a mile and a half from camp and work on the intrenchments [sic] till 2 o'clock. We went and returned to camp half past 2. I slept till 7 o'clock this morning and enjoyed it hugely. It is now half past 7 and as the mail leaves at 8 I won't be able to write much of a letter. It is a very pleasant morning and all is quiet along the lines.

I saw Capt Personius, James Mandeville, Tip\* and Al Snow\* and L. Fralick\* a few days ago. They were all well and appear [sic] to be very glad to see me.

I received your letter dated June 21 yesterday. Julia I can't tell you how much good it did me. I have read it over and over and over.

I have seen nor heard nothing of Tom Martin\*. I have heard nothing from Paul yet. He couldn't have died on his way to New York or Capt Whitlock would have been notified.

I don't know what McClellan intends to do not but I think he will remain here sometime and wait for reinforcements. He ought to have been reinforced a month ago with 50 thousand men. Those who are to blame for this ought to be certainly punished. McClellan had to fight not only the large army at Richmond but part of Beauregard's [sic] army and all of Jackson. His army is safe now and are in good spirits. No army ever stood greater hardships with less murmuring [sic] than McClellan's during the six days fighting. The men had nothing to eat more than half the time. I will close by saying that McClellan in his position can whip all the army the rebs can bring against him. Goodby for the present.

Yours faithfully, G Wolcott

IN CAMP NEAR THE JAMES RIVER

JULY 12 / 62

My Dear Julia

It was with pleasure that I received and read another of your welcome and cheering letters dated June 29<sup>th</sup>. The last line afforded me the greatest pleasure and satisfaction. Julia I have all confidence in you and I want you to have in me. I am perfectly well and we are having quite easy times. We have moved our camp since I wrote you last and now our division [sic] has the right of the army and rests on the James river. We are about a mile from Harrison's landing. Each division [sic] has been throwing up intrenchments [sic] since we arrived here. Our division [sic] has theirs nearly completed. We are strongly intrenched [sic] have a fine position and we have no fear of the result of a battle if the enemy should attack us however great their numbers may be. I suppose their must be considerable talk at Motts Corners and throughout the whole north touching [sic] McClellan's recent retreat upon the James river. I have no doubt that the most prominent sentiment in the minds of all patriotic men is, admiration of the

masterly generalship of Gen McClellan and the heroic conduct of his troops in their late battles before Richmond and on the other hand the execration of the conduct of those who have so successfully labored to bring upon his army the late disasters. Facts show what the union troops fought with a heroism unsurpassed in the history of wars. Their movements were directed with skill and bravery which will immortalize McClellan and the Generals under his command. If McClellan and his army had been let alone last spring when they marched to Manasses [sic] Richmond would have been taken long before this. His army was divided into four parts which was the first great blunder. A conceited Secretary has attempted to manage a campaign and as a consequence all his armies are beaten in detail. I hope all may be well yet. You wish to know if my views have been changed in regard to slavery. It is \_\_\_\_\_thing that I have thought but little of since I have been in the army. I am not in favor of Slavery and I never have been. Neither am I an abolitionist. I am fighting to enforce the laws of the United States and to uphold the Constitution. I haven't time to give you my views in this but I will some other time. I have heard nothing from Paul. You need have no fears Julia but that I shall take good care of myself be a good boy and remain faithful.  
Your George

CAMP NEAR HARRISONS LAN  
JULY 18 / 62

My Dear Julia

As I have nothing to do this afternoon and as it has been about a week since I wrote I shall attempt to write something.

I received your letter of the 8th the 15<sup>th</sup>. It was a good letter and it did me good and I thank you for it. There was certainly nothing in it that displeased me. I had heard of Pauls death a few days before I received your letter. It didn't surprise me much for I had expected it some time. Paul was a good soldier and the Officers and men of his company thought a great deal of him and feel his loss deeply. The last time I saw him was at the White House Va. The day we reached the White House we had a hard march it being very warm and dusty. There were several men in the Reg't worn out that day – Paul being one of the number. The Reg't remained at the white house but a short time and Paul being unable to march was left there. I regretted at the time that it was necessary that he should be left among [sic] strangers yet it couldn't be avoided.

He was not very sick at this time and he and all of us thought that he would be able to come on in a few days. We have been sadly disappointed. It is hard, but such are the fortunes of war.

JULY 19<sup>th</sup>

It is a cool refreshing day and the soldiers enjoy it greatly. We have a few days of very hot weather here, then a rain storm and after the storm we generally have one or two cool days. We have a pleasant camp and the location is healthful.

Capt Myers and I tent and mess together. We have got along so far without any trouble at all. We have a cook whose name is Carney – a Frenchman and we wouldn't

take a farm for him. For the very good reason that he is a good cook and a faithful hand. He makes first rate bread a great luxury here, and very few Officers have it. Perhaps you would like to know how we get our provisions. The brigade Commissary is obliged to furnish it for the Officers.

I was surprised to learn that you had received no letter from me in three weeks. I have received two from you and wrote two since we have been here. I wrote as soon as I could after we arrived here. I intend to write once a week when I can and if I don't Julia I shall expect one from you.

I prize your letters very much and I would be miserable without them. I notice that you think the life that men lead in camp is calculated to make them worse instead of better. This may be so but I believe the life that the greater part of the men in the army leads is not so bad as it was at home. The only temptation of much consequence is gambling. I know a few who have commenced this in the army. I have never played cards for money in or out of the army and I don't intend to.

Ed Marsh\* was returned to his Reg't but I haven't seen him.

I am well but a little lazy. I have and shall endeavor Julia to be worthy your confidence and love and if I can do this I think I will be a pretty good boy. I can also say Julia that my heart and thoughts and prayers are always with you and that you are never absent from any mind. I must close.

Yours faithfully Geo. Wolcott

CAMP NEAR HARRISONS LANDING  
JULY 24 / 62

My Dear Julia

I received your letter of the 13<sup>th</sup> yesterday. It interested me very much. I was happy to learn that that lost likeness was found that you had heard from me at last etc. The weather has been cool and pleasant for three days past. It has been the best kind of medicine for the sick and the well can live without getting under a shade.

You speak of the great battle and think our army was beaten. It was certainly a great disaster that McClellan was obliged to change his base of operations upon the James river. It was certainly a necessity and the whole army knew it. Now who was to blame for this becoming a necessity and who blames McClellan and his army. I say and believe that the radicals such as Sumner Chandler Greeley and Co are to blame and they and their followers are those who denounce McClellan and his army. This is not all they have done. They have by their speeches and political figuring united the Southern People and the spirit which they have represented now threatens to divide the north.

Every Officer in the Potomac army knew it was necessary for McClellan to fall back to the James river. It was a disaster but not of a decisive character. During the seven days' Battles the enemy suffered far more than our army. In every battle except the first, which Porter fought the enemy was repulsed with great loss. The hardest and most important battle was the last, fought at Melvern Hill July 1<sup>st</sup>. It was at this place that they made their greatest efforts to win. Their object was to destroy and take McClellans whole army. McClellans presence on the field that day saved our army.

Wherever he rode the troops greeted him with cheer upon cheer and were wild with enthusiasm. The enemy outnumbered us two to one and fought desperately. Every time they advanced they were driven back with heavy loss. Our artillery mowed them down by hundreds. They were nicely whipped. If they had not been why would they have fallen back towards Richmond.

This battle satisfied them that they couldn't take McClellan's army and they haven't troubled us since. What do you suppose is the reason that the Potomac army has more confidence in McClellan than ever before. If he didn't need reinforcements why are they sending them now. If he has committed any great error why don't Pres. Lincoln have him removed. Every one expected that McClellan would take Richmond and he would if he had been reinforced by 50 thousand men. Does anyone suppose that any General with the same number of men could have taken Richmond. If there are any such persons they knew nothing about the fortifications of Richmond the strength of McClellan's army nor the strength and fighting qualities of the enemy. There are some men who are glad to have an opportunity to find fault with McClellan. For this reason, that he has been a democrat. I said before this war commenced that if there should be a war between the (Do you remember one Caroline democrat who said if it came to war he would help the South) North and South it would be the most desperate of modern times. The assertion was laugh at by the wise men of Motts Corners and I was considered a rebel for making it. I have not forgotten all that was said before this war. I am proud to know that the Northern Democrats have proved themselves Union men and notwithstanding the abuse that has been heaped upon them they are always ready to fight and die for their country.

You know they used to say that they didn't want the help of the democrats to conquer the south that 15 or 20 thousand could whip the whole of them. I wish the President hadn't needed them. I suppose this is the reason that so many of this class remained at home. I think Pres Lincoln is a good man and has done what he thought was best for the country. It is evident that he has great confidence in both McClellan and Halleck. If he had not he would not have appointed them to such important positions. They being both democrats and were opposed by part of his own party. Gen Halleck and McClellan are intimate friends.

I have understood that during the Presidents visit at the headquarters of McClellan at Harrison's Landing that McClellan recommended Halleck's appointment as General in Chief of the land forces of the United States and magnanimously waived all claim of superiority in order that the President might have a sound military adviser in Washington.  
JULY 25<sup>th</sup>

Our Reg't and the 18 NY have just returned from Picket. We went out yesterday 12 o'clock and returned today at 12. We have about 3 miles to walk. We like to go on Picket. We get all the black and *whorttebussey* we wish. The weather is still cool and pleasant.

Before I close I will notice briefly what McClellan has done that the army should have confidence in him. We find him first in Western Virginia opposed by a large rebel army. He defeated this army in several battles, in one of which the rebel General Garrett was killed, and drove them out of Western Va. He was afterwards called to Washington and appointed Maj. General in the regular army. He planned the movements for the whole army for six months or more and the President was well pleased with them. Since he has been in Virginia he and his army have done more than some give him credit for.

Yorktown was the strongest fortified place in the United States or one of the strongest. No general without military skills could have taken Yorktown and then was no way to take it except by siege. He has fought several battles and has never been defeated in one. He has done sufficient in my mind to prove that he is a skilled General. I don't suppose this will be very interesting to you but I wanted to give you my opinion of McClellan.

I like Porter and Franklin but I don't think they deserved promotion more than other Generals and not as much as the Officers that did the fighting and exposed their lives to al thousand dangers.

Will Krum\* may have seen hardships but it was more on account of sickness than duty. If he had been with us for the past two months he would then know what hardships were.

I am well and remain yours as usual  
George Wolcott

CAMP NEAR HARRISON'S LANDING  
AUG 7 / 62

My Dear Julia

I am glad that I can commence this with brighter hopes and more confidence than when I wrote you last. Activity and decision marks the course of this government and everything promises quick, active, and decisive work, and the end of the campaign in Virginia within the next two months.

Since the general management of military affairs has been taken out of the hands of politicians and Lawyers at Washington and placed under the charge of Halleck, order is being restored and military movements have assumed on entirely different appearance.

The announcement that the President had issued an order for the Govenors [sic] of the states to commence drafting on the 15<sup>th</sup> if the three hundred thousand had not been made up by enlistments was cheering news to us. It assures us that a vigorous campaign is about to open in Virginia. Besides it may call to the field some of those men who have found so much fault and some of those who a little over a year ago talked so much fight and were so anxious for the time to arrive when they could shoulder their muskets and march South. It is strange how men seeing their friends in danger and the capital of their country and even their liberties menaced by an infernal rebellion could stay at home. I don't like to accuse anyone of cowardice but I think this looks a little like it. The forces in Virginia under the different generals are sufficient to hold the enemy in check and when the reinforcements arrive you may expect to hear of a series of brilliant events. I see no sufficient cause that the north should despair and give up the ship. We have the men and means to put down this unholy rebellion and our Motto should be never give up until the union is restored and every traitor receives his just deserts. If there were the same determination and confidence North as are in the army of the Potomac there would be no cause of alarm and this rebellion would soon be crushed. The troops are in just as good spirits and are as confident of success as they have been. The army have all confidence in McClellan and if he is given an opportunity to display his military skill

(which he hasn't had yet) men will yet blush for what they have said concerning him and his army. I have received two letters from you since I wrote last, one a week ago, the other last night.

They were very kind and interested me very much. I have wished many times that I could bear all your sorrow but I never wished so more earnestly than when I had read your last letter. We have cause enough for sorrow but don't let us get discouraged. I can bear every thing Julia better than to know that you are suffering. William Hicks hasn't returned to his company and I know nothing of Pauls knapsack.

I am well and the most we have to do here at present is to try and keep cool. I haven't written all I would but the mail will soon go out. My best wishes and always,

Yours truly,  
G. Wolcott

ALEXANDRIA VA  
AUG 25 / 62

My Dear Julia,

Since I wrote you last we have had a long march, passed over historical grounds, seen many interesting sights, had a pleasant voyage from Newport News to Alexandria, at which place we arrived yesterday, and we are not encamped about a mile from the city. We commenced our march from Harrison's Landing Aug 16<sup>th</sup> and reached Newport News the 22<sup>nd</sup>. We left our camp at Harrison's Landing Saturday 5 O'clock and march to Charles City Courthouse the second day we marched to the Chickahominy the third to Williamsburg, the fourth to Yorktown the fifth to Young's Mills, the sixth we reached Newport News.

The 23<sup>rd</sup> we embarked on board the steamship Daniel Webster and arrived at Alexandria yesterday afternoon. We had good fare on board the ship and had quite a pleasant trip. The distance we marched was about 70 miles. The weather during the march was very warm the roads very dusty and the men suffered considerable.

I stood the march well and felt just as well, when we reached Newport News as when we commenced our march. My health was never better than it is at present. I regretted to leave the Peninsula for some reasons, but for a great many I was glad to leave it. The weather is much cooler here and it is more healthful than in the low and swampy land of the Peninsula. We have had no mail since we left Harrison's Landing till this morning. I received 2 letters from you one dated Aug 10<sup>th</sup> and the other the 20<sup>th</sup>.

I was never more anxious to hear from you. I have felt easier and more contented since. I thank God Dear Julia that you are well and still hopeful. These are indeed trying times – times that try "Men's Souls". They will distinguish the brave from the cowards the strong from the weak and the true from the recreants. The despondent and faint-hearted will suffer most. The Government is now beginning to appreciate the magnitude of the rebellion it was called upon to suppress. If the Presidents vigorous course is supported by the 20 millions of loyal people, there is no such word as fail – and our starry flag will again soon wave clear to the Rio Grand. The news from Caroline interested me very much. I was glad to learn that my native town was doing so well.

Our division has all arrived and we expect to move tomorrow. Our division is commanded by Gen. Slocum, Gen. Franklin has command of the corps. Gen's Slocum and Smith's division compriz [sic] the corps. I long to try that Maple Sugar and no words can begin to express how greatly I wish to see you to look forward for that long wished for time with an anxious heart. I am well and remain yours.

HEIGHTSTOWN MD  
SEPT 11 / 62

My Dear Julia

I don't know as I will have time to write much as we may be ordered to fall in at any moment. I am perfectly well and all right.

We have marched a long distance since I wrote you last.

General Franklin's Corps commenced their march from Alexandria to Centreville Aug 29<sup>th</sup> and arrived near the battle ground the day following 6 O'clock PM and just after the left of Popes army gave way. We were within  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile of the battle ground when we met a perfect rush of retreating soldiers. You could hardly imagine our surprise and mortification. We had been having reports all day that Pope had Jackson surrounded and had a sure thing of taking Jackson and his army prisoners. We formed in line of battle halted all Officers and men that were not wounded and formed them in line also – and waited for the enemy. I think they must have been pretty badly whipped themselves for they didn't attempt to follow up their advantage.

During the night of the 30<sup>th</sup> Franklin's corps fell back to Centreville. We held this position 2 days and then covered the retreat of our army to Alexandria. We returned to Alexandria the night of the 2<sup>nd</sup> of Sept.

We halted at Camp Newton. In the morning our whole Reg't went to work to clear off our old camp. We had just got our tents pitched and everything nicely arranged when we received marching orders.

SEPT 13<sup>th</sup> – It was just as I anticipated. We had orders to fall in before I could get this ready to send.

It is six O'clock PM. We have halted I understand for the night. We have got our tent pitched. Capt and I have just eat our supper and we feel much better in consequence. We have marched 8 miles today and are now within 5 miles of Frederick.

SEPT 15 – Our division is in possession of Crampton Gap for which we fought gallantly yesterday. This Gap is in the Blue Ridge over which a road passes and is about 9 miles from Harpers Ferry. It was a strong position and the Rebs fought desperately to hold it. We drove them from the mountain and they fled in every direction.

I presume you will get the account in the papers before this reaches you so I won't write them at present. The loss in our Reg't is over 50 killed and wounded. Our Colonel and Major are both wounded. Eugene Simpson\* was killed. I was fortunate and received only 2 scratches. A bullet passed just close enough to my right ear to make it bleed a little another passed through my foot leg above my ankle and just grazing it. The loss of the enemy was much greater than ours.

I think we have taken 500 prisoners.

Little Mac has defeated the enemy in every fight so far in Maryland. I am well and yours as usual, G Wolcott

NEAR BAKERSVILLE MD  
SEPT 28 / 62

My Dear Julia

I received your letter mailed the 18<sup>th</sup> last night. It was most welcome and its contents and you dear Julia occupied my thoughts all night. You must not suppose Julia that on account of receiving no letters from me in three weeks that you were any the less thought of or that I loved you less. You remain the same except that your patience and faithfulness have made you more dear to me (if it was possible).

I wrote you immediately after the battle of Cramptons Gap and also immediately after the battle near Sharpsburg. The mail has been very irregular. Our Reg't received their mail last night making the time just one week since we had one. I think it will be more regular not. I received a letter from Brother John last night in which he says that there is a report at Motts Corners that I was wounded in the leg and had my ear shot off. This was amusing indeed. I would like to know who wrote the report. I detest alarmists all most as much as I do straggles and cowards. I haven't been wounded and I am very thankful and think I am fortunate to have escaped unhurt the many dangers to which I have been exposed. It was not because I was not at my post.

After the enemy had been driven out of Maryland and whip Franklins corps lay near Shepardstown the report came that Jackson was crossing into Maryland again at Williamsport. Franklin had orders to take his corps up there immediately to meet him. We received marching orders at 11 O'clock of the night of the 20<sup>th</sup> and a little after daylight we were at Williamsport. Only a small force had crossed and they recrossed before we got up there. We remained there over night and then marched to Bakersville or near it and we have been taking our ease since. We are 4 miles from Sharpsburg and 6 from Hagerstown. I have no idea how soon we will get more orders nor what they will be.

There is no information of any present movement of our troops in Maryland. Maryland is a beautiful country and the people generally are good union people. They are very kind and hospital and are delighted at McClellans success. They say that Lees' army crossed into their state singing My Maryland and all apparently very happy and that Lee boasted while in Frederick that he would be in Washington within a week and offered to bet at great odds to that effect. I think he must feel a little disappointed and mortified.

I am glad that the hot weather is over and that our terms of service ends before hot weather will come again. The cool weather has already greatly improved the health of the men. We have 230 men fit for duty in our Reg't and 14 officers.

I am perfectly well and have been. We have just heard that our Colonel and Major were doing well. It is good news for us all. It was at first thought that their wounds were mortal. I am a McClellan and Lincoln man still.

With many kind wishes I remain faithfully yours,  
G Wolcott

Our division is commanded by General Slocum which with Smith's form Franklins Corps.

NEAR BAKERSVILLE MD  
OCT 8 / 62

My Dear Julia

It is a delightful morning. The air is clear, and comfortably cool, not a cloud obscures the sky, and were it not that we see around us a white tented city and upon all sides the complete paraphernalia of war one might imagine that he was resting ins some quiet village.

There is no startling news to communicate. Notwithstanding there is much being done. Movements are being made troops are accumulating at this and that point, ammunition and subsistence trains are constantly on the move, indicating active movements. I think the day is not far distant when the news will be of a more important nature. Since I wrote you last we have moved our camp. We are now encamped in a beautiful piece of woods. We have got our wall tents again and can now live quite comfortable. We have nothing to do of any consequence except to go on picket once in 10 days – remain 2 days, and this is easy duty.

Since we left Harrison's Landing we have marched over 300 miles and have been engaged in two battles and several skirmishes so you may know that we have done something. During this time our Reg't has lost in battle and by sickness several Officers and over a 100 men. After the battle of Antietam we had about 200 men present and 14 officers. What are left may well be called veterans.

The rebs say they would rather fight a new regiment a 1000 strong than a regiment belonging to McClellan's [sic] old army numbering 200.

On the late battle field I talked with several of their wounded Officers and men. They all said that their whole army was confident that Gen Lee would take Washington, until Gen McClellan had been given the command of the Union army. They said they were then less confident. I have no doubt they were and are still less now. Still after McClellan has saved Washington a second time and done all he could, good-pretending-union-men north curse him. I know no reason for this, unless they fear his popularity may interfere with their party. I received an other of your kind letters mailed the 26<sup>th</sup> the 4<sup>th</sup>. It was most welcome as usual. I don't think that I can get permission to come home this month and perhaps not till we go into winter quarters. No Officers who are well can get a leave of absence at present. I regret very much that I can't come, but I suppose it will do no good to complain. I think the Presidents Proclomation [sic] is all right. If there is no other way to end this rebellion I would be in favor of extermination. Oct 4<sup>th</sup> we received the painful news that our Colonel was dead. He died the 2d from the wound he received at Crampton Gap. He was a brave and gallant Officer and was loved by us all – and all deeply feel and mourn his loss.

I am well, my health was never better. I shall get a leave of absence as soon as I possibly can. I think there will be no trouble to get one when we go into winter quarters.

I think I have been a pretty good boy and shall try to be and I know that I have remained true to my Dear Julia both in heart and deed and I intend to remain so.  
G Wolcott

HEADQUARTERS 32 REGT  
OCT 20 / 62

My Dear Julia

It is evening Capt. Myers has gone out and I am alone – and my thoughts as they always do when I am alone turn to you. It is quite cold and is raining. Some may be home-sick, Some discouraged and disheartened but I have overcome these, but how I don't know as I can say. I know, and can say this much that your love, Julia (which I try to appreciate) and the hope and influence caused thereby has done much towards keeping my spirits up and carrying me safely through the many hardships that I have passed.

The hardships I expected and have cared but little for them – but that ship which took me from you has been the hardest of all and the voyage has been truly a painful one. Why am I writing this, which you much certainly know, if you know me. I hope you won't think me selfish for I am especially down on this worm and have always detested it. I received yours of the 11<sup>th</sup> this afternoon. It interested me very much. I don't quite understand the last part of it. If I have loved you through selfish motives I am yet to learn it. I loved you when I was sixteen – that same love still exists, only it has grown stronger and I had supposed it was through pure and honorable [sic] motives if not then I have thought wrong and don't know myself.

You seem to think that I have grown hard hearted and that belonging to the army tends to harden one's heart. I think this is not so. I have witnessed scenes that were sufficient to soften the hardest heart and melt it to pity and sympathy. I think that a battle and the incidents thereby tend to soften men's hearts. There are men in the company to which I am attached whom I never knew to show one particle of sympathy or to respect anything that was right and honorable until they had been in battle. The kindness and sympathy this men showed to the wounded of the enemy at the terrible battle of Antietam, I could not help but notice and admire. It is getting late Capt Myers has come and I will close all I ask Julia is that you may know me as I am and my motives as they are. We have moved our camp 3 miles farther up the river. I don't know how long we will remain here. We are encamped just outside of a village but I don't know what they call it. I am well and remain truly yours. May God keep you well and safe,  
George Wolcott

WHITE PLAINS, VA  
NOV 7 / 62

My Dear Julia

As you will notice I date my letters again in Virginia and a long distance from this camp I last wrote you.

We are encamped in the woods near the Manasses [sic] Gap rail-road on the east side of the Blue Ridge.

We left our camp near Bakersville Oct 31<sup>st</sup> and have been marching every day since until to-day.

We crossed the Potomac at Berlin below Harpers Ferry. We are nearly a 100 miles from the camp we left in Maryland. The weather has been pleasant until last night when there was a big change. It began to grow cold and this morning it commenced snowing and has been snowing all day. It is harder for the men than the Officers. The men have to carry what they have and consequently they don't carry more than they are obliged to.

The most of them carry 1 overcoat 1 blanket – woolen and 1 rubber blanket hardly sufficient for this weather. Capt Myers and I are prepared for cold weather. We have a good wall tent and 14 good woolen blankets besides 3 rubber blankets and 2 overcoats. Our baggage is all carried for us. There is but very little sickness in the Reg't and all are in good spirits. Gen McClellan and Burnside passed by us yesterday and all of us were delighted to see them. The men appear [sic] to be wild with joy. I never heard men cheered so heartily. It pleased me to see the men cheer those two Generals. They tossed their caps in the air and expressed their delight in various ways. It is now 7 O'clock PM. There is about 2 inches of snow on the ground and is still snowing. I expect we will move on tomorrow but in what direction I don't know. I think we will move towards Manasses [sic] Gap or Warrenton.

I received your kind and very welcome favor dated Oct 19<sup>th</sup> while in Maryland and I am anxiously looking for another. I would have written before but we have had hardly time to eat since we have been on the march. The marching don't drive you from my thoughts however. I think of you Julia by day and night whether on the march or in camp and if you knew how I long to see you, you would need no farther proof to show that I loved you and was still faithful.

Ben Spaulding\* was sent to the Hospital before we left Maryland. He has been unwell ever since we left Harrison's Landing.

I am well. My health was never better. I have been fortunate thus far at least I think I have and I may be during the 6 months that we are yet to serve. The country through which we have marched is fine but desolation is seen on every hand. The soldiers take nearly every thing they can find.

The young men that didn't volunteer in the rebel army have been drafted. I haven't seen a young man yet on our march.

McClellan has been successful thus far on this campaign and if the weather permits I think that he and his army will take Richmond before a very long time. If McClellan and Burnside can't take it no other Generals can. I wish to go to Richmond then I will feel better satisfied.

Our Divission [sic] is now command by Gen Brooks. Our Brigade by Gen. Stoughten, so you will please direct accordingly and our division is in Franklin's Corps. I suppose Din is married. Please give her my compliments and say that I wish her very much joy.  
Yours faithfully indeed  
G. Wolcott

CAMP NEAR NEW BALTIMORE, VA  
NOV 12 / 62

My Dear Julia

I was honored and greatly pleased by the receipt of an other of your kind letters. Mailed the 8<sup>th</sup> this afternoon. It has been longer than usual since I have received a letter and I was more anxious than I can have been to hear from you. The mail has been very irregular. This afternoon was the first we have had in a week. How glad I am Julia that you are enjoying good health and how happy I am to know that you have been so good, kind and faithful. I have all confidence in you and I wish you would have in me. I have, and shall endeavor to be worthy of your love. It made me indignant to read how Bill Boice used his wife. I think that no man who had the least respect for his word or honor could act thus. May I never be guilty of such a crime.

It quite surprised me to learn that Ed Marsh\* was home. Please write me how long he has been home and how he got there. I am a Seymour man and a war democrat. I am in favor of restoring the Union as it was. I am disgusted with our present administration and I think I have reason for being so.

The Government has had all it has asked for both in men and money and I think it is the fault of old Abe and his Cabinet that the rebellion is not crushed.

There was a perfect storm and great excitement in the army the 9<sup>th</sup> caused by the news that our favorite and most beloved General was removed. McClellan took leave of Franklins Corps, which was drawn up in line to receive him the morning of the 9<sup>th</sup>. The men were wild. They greeted him with cheer after cheer, crowded around him, and expressed their love and respect in every way imaginable. Many a tear was shed and many a curse was uttered. I never heard such bitter and meaning words spoken. After McClellan had saved Washington a 2d time and after he had worked so hard to organize his army and when he had commenced a successful campaign with his army in the finest of spirits, to use him thus, was indeed sufficient to astonish us all. I detest this act of the President but hope all may yet be well. The army has been idle since the 7<sup>th</sup>. We have been here 4 days. We have no orders yet and I don't know when we will move. The army will have to move soon if it moves at all.

We are encamped near New Baltimore a small town containing a ½ dozen buildings and we are about 5 miles from Warrenton a much larger town.

I am well, my health was never better. A good many Officers have offered their resignation in our division on account of the removal of McClellan. Every Officer in our Reg't would if their term of service was not so nearly ended.

I would like to have gone to Richmond if McClellan had been left in command but I am now not anxious. I am much more anxious not to leave the army and return home.

Yours faithfully,  
G Wolcott

CAMP NEAR STAFFORD COURT HOUSE, VA  
NOV 27 / 62

My Dear Julia

The mail has at last come and I was happy to learn that it had brought a letter for me. It was dated Nov 10<sup>th</sup>. I was never more anxious to hear from you and I was indeed happy to know that you were enjoying good health.

I was surprised to learn that you had received no letters from me. I have written you once a week since we left Maryland. We left New Baltimore Nov 16<sup>th</sup> and after marching 4 days over a very bad road we reached our present position. We are near Stafford Court House and 10 miles from Fredericksburg. This is a miserable country and I will be glad when we get out of it.

The country through which we passed on our march from New Baltimore was sparsely populated, with neglected agriculture a stony soil worth in times of peach from 5 to 10 dollars per acre.

The inhabitants are poor as a general thing as well as ignorant and benighted.

Some of our route was through pine and oak forest passing occasionally a plantation deserted their small farms occupied by poor white men who could tell you nothing of the country in which they lived or how far it was to any place.

The army devours every thing in the shape of provisions both for man and beast within its reach. The soldiers don't take anything they can't get.

As soon as a brigade halts for the night the guns stacked and ranks broken away go the men in every direction for wood and water etc. Fences are demolished sheep and pigs butchered and every thing that a soldier can use for his comfort is taken. I pity the women and children. I have been in some houses that families had nothing to eat but corn meal and had only a small supply of that.

We have been here 7 days and there is no prospect of moving soon. I am glad of one thing. They can't blame McClellan for the inactivity now.

I don't think Burnside or any other General can satisfy the anticipations and wishes of the North – not even if men could do without shelter and food and could leap ditches 30 feet wide, carry off forts on their bayonets etc. The consequences of McClellan's removal are plainly to be seen. Gen McClellan had every advantage of Gen Lee at the time he was removed and we might have been in Richmond to-day. Now the picture is entirely changed. Gen Lee has had time to move his army and they are now in front of us ready for another battle. If Burnside is successful it will cost us 3 times as many lives as it would at the time the army was halted by the removal of McClellan. Every man in the army then was sure of success and every one knows that it wouldn't have taken half the time nor cost half the lives it will now to take Richmond.

Pres. Lincoln and his blundering cabinet should be held responsible for this greatest of mistakes. It won't be forgotten by the army of the Potomac. If his removal had been for the good of the country or for a good cause and through good motives I would look at it differently. I am obliged to differ a very little with you Julia in regard to the election in

New York. To be frank I was greatly pleased when I heard Seymour was elected. I see that you have heard that I have been promoted and that you wondered if that was the cause you received no letters from me. If you receive the letters I have written you they will show that it was not my fault. My name was sent forward for promotion after the battle of Crampton Gap.

I am well and ready as ever to strike for my country. I remain your faithfully,  
Geo Wolcott

CAMP NEAR STAFFORD COURT HOUSE  
DEC 2 / 62

My Dear Julia

Here we are yet and no prospect of a move. I don't know why the army has been kept inactive, unless it is on account of the weather. The weather is certainly very unfavorable for active operations but it is not so bad as it was last spring on the Peninsula. I know of no news of importance. All is quiet along the Rappahannock.

The enemy is reported to be in strong force in front and ready to oppose our advance. I don't know whether Burnside intends to advance or not. If he does, it is certainly time. He has waited to long in my opinion now. The longer he delays the more difficult it will be to advance – both on account of the weather and the fortifications which the rebels have thrown up.

I suppose the people north now think that as McClellan is removed there will be no more spades used and that Burnside when he gets ready to move will march into Richmond without much trouble. I wish this were so. We might as well look at this picture as it is. It is my humble opinion that if the Iron-clads are unable to pass Fort Darling on the James River to capture Richmond will require more time more men and more spades than the northern people have yet dreamed of. However this may be I think Richmond can and must be taken and the Rebellion crushed. Uncle Sam has the money & men sufficient to accomplish this and rather than to have the rebels succeed I would sacrifice all. What is life worth without a country a home. I want to see the Star & Stripes again float throughout the traitorous South and they would if all felt as I do. It may take 1 year and perhaps longer if it should. I say keep to work at them till they are soundly whipped.

DEC 3<sup>rd</sup>

It is quite cold thin morning and looks like snow. The 30<sup>th</sup> I received a long and very kind letter with no date and last evening I received another dated the 25<sup>th</sup>. They afforded me much pleasure and my thoughts reverted back to the happy times the happiest of my life that I have passed with you. Although I am far from you it is great satisfaction to contemplate the joy of seeing you again being by your side and spending my life with one to whom my heart is bound as with cords of tripled steel. I was pleased to hear that Motts Corners had awoke and was trying to do something for itself.

I wish to make a shore explanation concerning what little I have said of politics. I said I was a Seymour man and a war Democrat, or if you please a conservative union man. I may be wrong but I think what I said was consistent[sic] – although the detestable Jim Roe and the Barbarians of Location voted for Seymour.

I wouldn't have supported Wadsworth for I think that he is too radical. I supposed that Seymour was a conservative man and that he loved his country and would seek to unite the masses of the people to sustain the President in administering the Government and carrying on the war to preserve the constitution as it is in all its majesty and beauty and restore the authority of the Government in the places where insurgent hands have sought to overthrow it. No one can say that when Seymour was Governor of New York that he did not distinguished himself by his honesty and ability. I think that Seymour will sustain the Pres in a vigorous prosecution of the war on the principles he announced in his inaugural address. If he does not, then I will be no Seymour man.

I would see this government established on a foundation so firm and staple that the despots of the world might hurl against it their fiercest anathemas backed by armed hosts without being able to cause a single pillar on which it rests even to vibrate from the force of the shock. How is this to be brought about. By hard fighting I suppose and havn't[sic] we our hands full enough all ready. I think we have. If the radicals were allowed to have their way they would force Kentucky Maryland and the Union men of Western Virginia of Missouri of Tennessee out of the union certainly and what would be the consequence. I will mention a few war Democrats to show that there are some Democrats who are patriots.

I will commence with McClellan then Burnside, Franklin, Sumner, Halleck, Slocum, Grant, McClerland, Newton, Gen Dix, Wool, Buel, Reynolds, Porter, in fact nearly all of the leading Generals are Democrats.

We have just received marching orders and I will have to close. I think it is about time don't you.

I understand we are going to Bell Plains which is near the Potomac 12 miles from our present camp. I am glad that we are going to move. I want to get out of this miserable place. Capt Whitlock has received notice that Ben Spaulding\* died the 28<sup>th</sup> in a Hospital in Hagerstown Maryland. I saw him last at Bakersville MD. He was quite sick then. He was taken sick about a month before we left Harrison's Landing and has been failing ever since. Ben was a good soldier and his comrades thought a great deal of him. How can I help feeling very grateful and thankful to Him who is the God of battles for the Mercy and Kindness that He has shown me.

I am well my health could be no better. I shall not complain at all Julia if you do differ with me in politics.

With true love I remain yours faithfully  
George Wolcott

32d REGT N Y S VOL  
DEC 22 / 62

My Dear Julia

Since I wrote you on the 17<sup>th</sup> we have moved back from the Rappahannock and we are now encamped 2 miles from Belle Plain. Our camp is in a piece of woods and if they let

us remain here we can live quite comfortable. I don't know what they intend to do with us this winter.

I think they will have to let us go into winter quarters if they do it isn't probable that the 2 year troops will do any more fighting.

There are several reports concerning the 2 year troops in camp. Some think they will be discharged if the army goes into winter quarters and others think they will be ordered to Washington to do garrison duty in the forts the rest of their time.

I hope the 32d wont see another fight. There is about ¼ of the original members left & I don't want to see them all killed. Our regt has done a great deal of hard duty & has done it well. Our regt & the 18<sup>th</sup> NY have the name of being the best regts in our division [sic] and have been complimented by the General for their coolness & bravery in every battle in which they have been engaged. They were the first of Franklins command to cross the Rappahannock & they were the last to re-cross. The 18<sup>th</sup> crossed the river the morning of the 12<sup>th</sup> at daylight followed by the 32d. We drove back the Enemys Skirmishers to their fortifications & formed the right of Franklins left grand division [sic].

Our division [sic] had a position in advance of the rest of the line and we had orders not to advance farther until the left had driven the Enemies right from their position. The fight commenced on the left at 10 O'clock AM & continued till nearly 3. The left was unable to drive the Enemy from their position and our division [sic] was not ordered to advance but hold their position. The rebs made but one attempt to drive us back.

They drove the Jersey Brigade back (a part of our division [sic]) and would have taken a battery had it not been for the 32d. Our regt had orders to advance and meet the charge of the rebs, which we did, and drove them back with but little loss. We had one man killed & only a few wounded. Thank God we were fortunate on our \_\_\_\_\_ battle-field.

I think this battle was the greatest blunder & disaster of the war. Some think here that Burnside was to blame for the disaster others think that it was the war bureau consisting of Halleck Stanton & co. I have given up nearly all hope of seeing the rebellion put down by the present administration.

I think the President ought to discharge all incapable & blundering officials and replace them by able and patriotic men.

I have received a letter from you over a week, the last of which was dated Dec 10<sup>th</sup>. I received 2 while we were across the river. I couldn't write at time for there was no mail sent for 7 days.

I acknowledge the kindness of them all. They did me much good and after the disaster at Fredericksburg I thanked God that I had something to comfort me and live for. How well I would like to be home Christmas but I cant and there is no use to complain.

As you say Julia it won't be very long and I already count the time by days as it passes.

I am well & remain yours faithfully  
G Wolcott

32d REGT N Y S VOL  
DEC 30 / 62

My Dear Julia

I have received 2 letters from you since I wrote. One dated the 13<sup>th</sup> the other the 25<sup>th</sup>. The latter I received this afternoon.

I appreciate and acknowledge the kindness of them both & can never forget it. Every letter I receive from you Julia is much benefit to me and makes you dearer (if it were possible) to me. The old year is nearly gone and "with it many a glorious throng of happy dreams". I thank God that I am not gone, nor my happy dream. It has been over a year since I have seen the dear one who represents so important a character in my dreams yet time the seemingly cruel absence has not caused me to forget her in the least nor has it made my love for her less strong & ardent.

I don't think it necessary to renew the protestations I have made you. You are aware that I love you fondly & well. I can say Julia that I have been faithful to you this closing year and that I intend to be the new one.

I often think of the happy times I have passed with you of the Evenings when you met me at the door of the sweet embrace your lips making it sweeter and how happy I was afterwards when your head rested upon my breast or shoulder. Of how quick the evenings passed and how much I regretted to leave you.

I often think too of the last time we parted. I suffered more than you supposed Julia and more than I ever had before. I will remember how my feelings choked my utterances[sic] and the strange weakness that I had never before felt.

Our term of Service will end in a little over 4 months then Julia with Gods permission I shall see you again.

If we should go into winter quarters I would do my best to get a leave of absence. I don't know whether we will go into winter quarters or not. If we do I don't think we will here. One thing is certain I shall not remain longer in the army than my term of service. I was happy to learn that you were well & had a merry Christmas. Our mery[sic] Christmas was the same as any other day. John Mandeville\* present was to much for me. I can't see the point. I have wondered if he talked fight, as much as he did before the war commenced. We have been having quite pleasant weather. Last night there was a marked change. The wind blew cold from the north and today there is an occasional flake of snow. There is no news of importance. I can't form any opinion of what the next move of the army will be. It will not be very easy to advance or fall back.

Capt Myers & I have comfortable qartrs[sic] and enough to eat again. I am well/ My health could be no better. I wish you a very happy new Year and many blessings hoping that the next New Year I may spend with you – and that the next may be a happier one for our country.

Yours faithfully  
G Wolcott

32d REGT NYS VOL  
JAN 28 / 63

My Dear Julia

We have returned from our mud excursion and are back in our old camp again. We were out 7 days and had the roughest time we ever had. It rained every day except the first. Talk about mud. I never knew the roads in Virginia had no bottom before.

The 1<sup>st</sup> day we marched the roads were very good but at night it commenced to rain & has been raining ever since till last night when it changed to snow and has been snowing right smart since. When Burnside concluded that he could go no farther the whole army returned to their old camps except our division[sic] which was left to bring out the pontoons. This was the unkindest cut of all. To leave the smallest division [sic] in the army & one that has lost more men in battle than any other to do the work that ½ doz divisions [sic] ought to have done was decidedly wrong. We were 4 days getting the Pontoons from the river to the Falmouth road. We had to draw them nearly 3 miles.

The picture the men presented hauling those pontoons was anything but pleasant to look at. We hitched a long rope to the waggons[sic] for a tung[sic] and the men acted as mules. It took 100 men to haul 1 waggon[sic]. The men were half drowned half starved & covered with mud from head to foot but never the less we finished our work & after marching a day & half the night we reached our old camp. There is not much prospect of another move very soon.

The snow is now about 4 inches deep & it looks dreary indeed here in the wilderness.

Major Myers & I have a log house which makes very good quarters. My health was never better than it is at present. I weigh 160 lbs so you can judge I am not growing smaller.

I understand Gen Franklin is removed but I havn't heard the particulars. He is considered next to McClellan by the soldiers the best General in the army.

I received your letter mailed the 23d this morning. I was happy to learn you are well & the news was indeed interesting. Dear Julia the thought of being with you again makes my heart beat fast & my anxious & longing heart tells me how truly & well I love you. In a little over 3 months with Gods permission I will see you. You ask me if you should correspond with Ravthes Ball. Please do as you think proper I shall not complain. Please excuse this muddy letter & I will try to get out of the mud in my next

Yours faithfully

Geo Wolcott

32d REGT NYS VOLUNTEERS  
CAMP NEAR WHITE OAK CHURCH, VA  
FEB 10 / 63

My Dear Julia

How many times I have written that name. How much it has interested me and how much I have thought of it and the one who bears it. Although it has been a long time since I have seen her yet every day which passes and makes the absence greater leaves

her fresh in my memory, finds her dearer to me than ever and not only interests me more & more but figures first in my thoughts and my fondest hopes and all is centered upon her.

Julia if you knew what solicitude I have for you and how kindly every pulsation of my heart beats for you, you couldn't have a doubt but that I would be faithful & true to both you and myself and you would know that my heart was as susceptible of kindness and love as ever. I may be unworthy your love & confidence yet I have endeavored to be worthy of both. However this may be I can assure you there is no one more fondly and ardently loved and through purer motives than yourself.

It is a pleasant morning at least it is pleasant over head as the old expression goes but rather muddy. We have had very disagreeable weather. Rain snow Mud and ice seems to have been contending to see which would be master. I think the mud has the best of them yet. I have had several surprise parties within a week or rather several parties called to see me which quite took me by surprise. The 1<sup>st</sup> party consisted of Mr. Michael Krum, Johnson Quick\*, Richard Quick\* & Ezra Babcock. I was pleased indeed to see these familiar faces from old Caroline. I was much more pleased though to see the last one who called. It was your brother Ed. He reached our camp at tattoo, stayed with me one night & started for Acquia Creek the next day at 11 O'clock AM. I was very glad to see Ed and I wish he could have made us a longer visit. I gave him the best we had to eat and the best bed we had in the house.

I was over to Acquia Creek Landing the 6<sup>th</sup> and saw Bill & John Cantine\* and some others that I knew. John Cantine & Bill were well & looked well. I heard from old friend Camp a few days ago. He is married and sent me his wedding cards.

They are giving furloughs now and my turn will come in about 30 days. I am well & long for May to come. Yours faithfully G Wolcott

32d REGT NYS VOLS

CAMP NEAR WHITE OAK CHURCH, VA

FEB 13 / 62 [1863 – letters before and after were from White Oak Church, Va.)

My Dear Julia

I received your very kind and interesting letter dated the 29<sup>th</sup> this morning. I was unusually pleased to hear from you and thank you very much for the likeness of that young Lady you sent me. I had no difficulty to recognize the well remembered face. My memory has been good in this respect and would ever be. Could I ever forget that face and form so dear to me No never.

Julia with mingled feelings of joy and sorrow alone in my tent I have been looking at this likeness nearly all day. I have pressed it to my heart, kissed it and shed tears over it.

This may look simple Julia but I acknowledge the weakness, if you would call it that but I would have you know that under different circumstances my heart may be as strong as any other.

I might as well stop here I can't write what I would and could never express with words how well I love you. I must say though, that it is a pretty likeness and I was happy indeed to see you looking so well.

Mr. Murray that you speak of I have met several times since I have been in the army. I know his Reg't well. It has suffered terribly in battle. I first met him at old camp Newton. He came there to see his Brother, who is a member of Capt Whitlock's company and learning that I was from Caroline I presume was the reason he wished to make my acquaintance. I understand that he is a brave man and appears to be quite a gentleman. You seem to think that I like Major Myers and wish to know if he is a Christian etc. I will tell you something about him. I was assigned to his company last May and I have been compelled [sic] to associate with him more or less since. I never became acquainted with a man from New York City with whom I had any desire to cultivate friendship or who I thought was a gentleman. I will say this much for Major Myers he is the bravest of Officers and a soldier. He has a wife & 2 children in New York City. He is no Christian at least he don't act like one. He was promoted about a month ago. Company Offices tent together and as he and I had a comfortable tent he concluded that he wouldn't fix up new quarters for himself until we pitched another camp. I will tell you now how much I have liked him. Just so far as it was for my interest and comfort. I have no intimate friends in the army and haven't had since old friend Camp left us. I use all well that use me well.

Julia I see that you are really a McClellan man and I admire your choice & good judgement [sic]. He has always been my choice and is yet, not from any political reason or from any personal feeling but because I thought him to be the ablest General and that it would be for the interest of our Government. I am disgusted with the President & his administration but I hope he may do something yet. If he does there will be no one more ready than I to give him credit. Why was McClellan removed. It has been nearly 3 months since his removal and yet there has been no reason assigned for it. He was not only removed but grossly insulted. Why was General Franklin removed a man second only to McClellan in ability and loved by the whole army. Why was the gallant soldier who fought the battle at Hanover Court & at Malvern Hill Fitz John Porter cashiered. If these questions can not be satisfactorily answered what wonder there that the army of the Potomac [sic] should become demoralized.

There is no difference between Republican and Democrats in this respect. They think and feel alike. We are having very pleasant weather it is a warm as summer. I am well and long for that time when I shall be made happy with your presence.

Yours faithfully  
George Wolcott

32d REGT N.Y.S. VOLS  
CAMP NEAR WHITE OAK CHURCH, VA  
MARCH 9 / 63

My Dear Julia

I received your very kind letter mailed the 20<sup>th</sup> yesterday. It is needless to say that I was pleased to hear from you. You must know I always am. It is Sabbath evening I believe and I am mad as usual to think I can't be with you. I suppose I will have to bear it and I think I can with the prospect that they can't hold me many more weeks. If I get a furlough (and I think I can some time this month) I can remain home 8 days. If I could remain but one or even one hour I would come. How glad I shall be to come. It makes my heart beat quick to think of it. We are having all kinds of weather. It has been quite warm today. We have the 4 seasons of the year here in one week. Summer one day perhaps the next winter & so on mixed up promiscuously & generally.

This country is particularly down on snow. It will work one day to give us snow then it will face about and rein it off. There has been one exception. During the early part of the evening of Feb 21<sup>st</sup> the severest snow storm ever known in this latitude commences and continued all night and the next day. The wind howled through the valleys and wood in angry gusts blowing down trees and piling the snow up generally. The snow was over a foot deep where the wind didn't disturb it and we were all astonished at the fierceness of such a storm in Dixie. It was so unexpected. I supposed it came to celebrate the anniversary of Washington's birth day or to prevent the army from celebrating it. What made it more interesting about noon when the wind was howling its prettyist[sic] we were startled by cannon firing along one whole line. The sound at any time is big music but it was doubly so that day as it was brought to us by the gale.

When a 100 cannon open their deep toned notes the sound has something fearfully exciting and grand in it – especially during such a storm. I think I had better bring this snow storm to a close.

My health was never better than at present. The adjutant[sic] was just in and detailed me to take charge of 100 men to work on the corduroy road tomorrow. They are building corduroy roads everywhere. I received a letter from Sister Em yesterday. Em spoke of you and asked me if I remembered you. She said you had a curiously wrought pipe and ask me if I wasn't afraid that you would learn to smoke and be expensive. I thought it was pretty rich all through and I had to laugh I couldn't possibly help it.

It is 11 O'clock and as you may be sleepy I won't trouble you farther tonight. Hoping to see you soon. I again subscribe myself

Yours faithfully  
G. Wolcott

ON PICKET NEAR THE RAPPAHANNOCK  
MARCH 28 / 63

My Dear Julia

Yesterday's mail brought me a letter from you dated March 15<sup>th</sup>. I believe Julia there was never a letter more anxiously looked for and one read with more interest than that. I was fearful something was wrong that you might be sick and oh how that thought startled me. I never wish to bear another such fearful suspense. How thankful I was and how much better I felt when I had read your letter and learned that you were well. I have been disappointed and not a little either. I tried to wait patiently my turn but I could not and I have suffered in consequence. All the Officers wished to visit home and there was a good deal of talk about it and the Colonel concluded that they should go as their turn came. There are 2 yet to go before me. We have received no marching orders and I may come yet. I certainly shall if I can.

When I told you Julia that 3 months wouldn't be long I didn't know what I said. I know though that I did not say this because I did not love you with my whole heart for you were dearer to me at that time than every thing else and have been since and are still. Every day that passes tells me how well & truly I love you. If you knew how kindly and how much I thought of you how much I long to see you how much I wish to see you happy and my anxiety[sic] for your health you would not have one doubt.

I am well and we are having quite easy times. We are on picket near the river about 4 miles from camp. We came out here yesterday morning and expect to remain 3 days. Capt Stanley and I are stopping in a brush house which the men put up for us. It is quite amusing to see the old soldiers prepare quarters for themselves in the woods. They display a taste ingenuity and quickness remarkable in many points. There is quite a respectable looking house a ¼ mile from us owned by a man who has 2 daughters all genuine rebs. I saw them as we passed the house and they looked ugly enough to sour anything. The old one won't allow them to even speak to union soldiers. Their name is Hay but I think it would be more appropriate Snake-weed. He had a large no of slaves but they have all run away except one who limps when he walks and I suppose his limpness detained him.

There is no news here of importance. The weather and roads are improving slowly. I hope you will excuse this lame letter for I am in the woods and you can't expect much from a back woodsman.

I am willing for you to blame me but don't doubt my love and constancy If I should attempt to express how much I wish to see you and what joy and gladness I anticipate at meeting you I would make a miserable failure. May God bless you and all your friends.  
Yours faithfully  
G Wolcott

32d REGT N.Y.VOLS  
APR 6 / 63

My Dear Julia

I received your kind letter date March 25<sup>th</sup> this evening. I regret very much that I should have caused you more disappointment. I was confident that I should come home in March but I could not. I know how to sympathize[sic] with you for the suspense and disappointment has been almost insufferable although I have suffered much yet I think I have cause to be thankful and I still hope all may yet be well. The dangers and hardships I have experienced I have cared but little and amounts to little in comparison to what I have suffered in being absent from you. I won't complain for I don't know as I have a right to. There were 2 Officers started the 5<sup>th</sup> for home and are to return the 15<sup>th</sup> then if the furloughs are not stopped I shall come. If I can't come then I have this big consolation that I will be my own General in May and then I guess I will come. I read your letter with much interest and I wish I could reply as well as I appreciate and esteem it. You speak of writing with the Methodist Church and wish to know if I have any objection. I have none Julia and if I had I don't think I would make them I would sooner trust to your judgment and I would much rather have your wishes gratified than my own.  
APR 8<sup>th</sup>

I Intended to have sent this yesterday but I did not for this reason. Edson Heath called to see me and I went with him to see his Brother Hewy who is a sutler in the 21s regt NJ Vols and didn't return to camp till quite late. Ed's opinion of soldering is something like your Brother Eds. He says nothing would induce him to join the army. Our corps (Sedgwick's) was reviewed today by the President & General Hooker. We didn't have a very disagreeable time at least not so much so as we generally have. We left camp 8 O'clock marched 4 miles to the review ground looked at the President then. He looked at us, all done very quietly and then we returned to camp which we reached about 3 O'clock PM to our immense gratification. I understood the Presidents wife was somewhere at the review and my curiosity was excited desperately to obtain a look at the lady. But alas I was in the wrong place or looked in the wrong place and lost the labor of my eyes. It is quite cold here and has been for a week. There was a severe snow storm here a few days ago. The wind blew a perfect gale from the north and snow fell 6 inches. Some snow remains yet. There is no news here of importance no marching orders yet. I am well and the anticipation of seeing you again soon gives me hope and courage. Please excuse this Julia I can't write what I wish as I never could express in words how well I love you.  
Yours faithfully  
G Wolcott

LETTER TO GEORGE WOLCOTT FROM HIS BROTHER-IN-LAW  
EDWARD B. LOUNSBERY

Edward B. Lounsbery was born December 2, 1833 (per family records) or October 11, 1833 (per enlistment record) in the Town of Caroline, Tompkins County, NY, the son of Peter & Harriet Cantine Lounsbery. His enlistment record lists his occupation as a farmer. He was married to Amanda Sanders on November 3, 1858. He enlisted on August 31, 1864 as a Private, for one year, and was "mustered" (left for duty) the same day in Company B of the 179<sup>th</sup> Infantry, New York Volunteers. He was promoted to 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant on December 11, 1864. He returned to Mott's Corners after the war. He died November 27, 1904.

CAMP OF TH 179<sup>th</sup> NEAR HANCOCK STATION, VA  
JAN 6<sup>th</sup> 1865

Brother George

I received your kind and most welcome letter the 2d and was very glad to hear from you and to hear that yourself and family are well, I have been changing my quarters and consequently have not had time to write until now, when our regt first came here we came to an old camp where a small regt had been but with comfortable quarters as far as they went, but we were scattered along the breast works for about ½ a mile and in a lowest place and the Col gained permission to move the regt a little to the left and rear and make a consolidated camp we have new good quarters our street regular and the buildings of uniform size. 4 men occupying a house. They are all stockaded[sic] the walls 5 feet high 4 pieces of tent covering each, 2 bunks in each, the Officers tents vary in size and combined some of them stockaded[sic] of small round logs without filling and some just a common log house some use 6 pieces tent and some 4. I have the best tent on the line the best work the best arranged[sic]. Don C.\* was boss carpenter and the boys built it entire for me I had nothing to do or say about it is 15 feet long and 7 ½ wide the walls are 7 feet high, stockade, the timber is all hewed on the inside. I have a good plank floor that they split out of pine longs. The front is made &etra the door posts are hewed square and the front corner posts are square ant[sic] the filling on one side of the door is of 2 wide plank nicely hewed forming a pannel[sic] and then a door the other side made of Hart Tack boxes with all of the Modern impiements[sic] for a latch. My fire place is on the right my bed in the rear with a stand of the head of the bed. A table opposite the fire place I am situated just as comfortable as a man need be and I enjoy soldering first rate. My Co was the first to move in their new quarters and I was the 3d officer on the line 2 others had their timber all out and partly put up before they knew we were going to move consequently they soon had their arranged[sic]. I am the only Officer in the Co ad my Captain has been discharged and Lieut Bogart is in the hospital and I do not expect him back. I tell you George I have had some hard times getting the books and papers of the Co in shape and making Pay Books and Clothing receipt books and charging clothing and in fact every thing to do that a Co Commander has to do and as the Co has had no officer since the 17<sup>th</sup> of June and everything allowed to run loose you may think what a

job I have had but thank fortune it is all straight now and I mean to keep it so. Our regt was taken out to see one of its members hung today, the 3d one within a month, from our regt. This one was from Richford, Tioga Co his name was Watterman Thornton. He deserted in time of battle the 30<sup>th</sup> Sept. Claims that he was taken prisoner and thought that his chance would be better to get to our lines if he told them he was a deserter and he did so but the evidence was strong against him. The Provost Marshall thinks him innocent and so do the most of the People here. \_\_\_portion of letter missing\_\_\_ to hang I do not wish to see another one hanged, but I may have to. Tell Tom Vandemark\* that his sub deserted and has never been found he left the barracks at Elmira and they enquired for his principle and the he is not cleared because his sub was never mustered into the W \_\_\_ Service, and add the remainder to suit yourself. I hear that Will has the Erysipelar poor fellow. Ask him if he is going to Canada this spring tell him that down here we shoot and hand such men as he is that man we hung today was not \_\_\_ guilty as will is he ought to be Court Marshalled[sic] and sent to the dry Tortugas for 3 years at hard labor[sic]. Tell Julia I will answer her letter in a short time I am glad you are getting along so well keeping house, and am glad that you find home so pleasant, that you wish to be there all your leisure time I tell you George that there is no happiness in this world equal to that of a man happily married having a wife that he loves equal with self or better if that were possible [sic], and the longer you live together the more you will love one another take good care of my nephew, Clarence, may heavens choicest blessings rest upon you and yours is my daily prayer.

I hope it will not be necessary for you to leave your home again to help finish up this Rebellion there are plenty that can be better spared but rather than have the South succeed let every man in the North be brought in the field. I would like to have some of those Over loyal men in Caroline Drafted. I think it would do them good. How are you State Malitia[sic]. What will the poor fellows \_\_\_portion of letter missing\_\_\_ months dodge again or will they enlist for 1 year \_\_\_missing\_\_\_ hope that \_\_\_missing\_\_\_ pay a very large bounty I would like to see some of them come here for \_\_\_ all bounties. I suppose that they can relate tales of the horror of the battle field and the many trials and deprivations that they have encountered and relate anecdotes of the war by the hour to say nothing of their frequent skirmishes with Gray Devils. One of the valiant Mottvillars [from the village of Mott's Corners] told me that it was very dangerous down at City Point he had been there as guard with some subs and had a cannon fired somewheres[sic], probably in Butlers department or in front of Petersburg[sic], as there is no firing nearer the point than that. I wish he was here and could see the shells that the Rebs throw just to the right of our Camp every day what would he think then. The boys from the 109<sup>th</sup> come up here often. Len Reed\* was wounded in the shoulder the other day while with a fatigues[sic] party repairing Preket Pits but it is only a flesh wound and he will probably soon be around again. Bill Roe\*, Ed Beebe & John Henry Roe were up the other day. Len was here 10 or 12 days since the boys are all well and in good spirits. Don Hanford\* & John Roe\* are worth more for soldiers than all the rest that came with me and not just \_\_\_\_\_ in. they are always ready for duty no grumbling or growling about rations or officers but good faithful soldiers and as brave as good but the boys are all better than the average, I wish I had Hap Shurter\*, George Roe\* and "Park" here yet but I do not want them to enlist only I would like such boys. That Bill Frank Yaples\* that the folks thought did not know any thing turns out to be a likely young man as tough as a knot has not been

sick a day, he is in Co. J. I wish he was with me. Give my respects to all enquiring friends, remember me to Julia, Amanda and all the rest of the friends, write soon,  
Goodbye  
I remain yours  
E. Lounsbery

### PERSONS MENTIONED IN THE LETTERS

**BOICE, JOHN** – Born July 10, 1836 in Gilford, New York, the son of Lewis & Sarah Dibble Boice. He was a farmer and single when he enlisted in September 1862 for 3 years. He joined Co. E, 76<sup>th</sup> Inf., N Y Vol. as a Private. He died June 9<sup>th</sup>, 1863 of Camp Fever. His remains were buried at Yorktown, VA.

**CAMP, ED** – Edward Camp enlisted May 7, 1861 as a Private in Co. I, 32<sup>nd</sup> N Y Reg't., N Y Vols. He was promoted to Serg't; and was wounded May 7, 1862 at West Point, VA. He was discharged on July 22, 1862 for his wound.

**CANTINE, JOHN** – John J. Cantine was born December 24<sup>th</sup> 1808, the son of John J.C. & Ruth Bull Cantine. He was listed as a “printer, editor” who was living in Slaterville, NY, and single when he enlisted on August 20, 1862 for 3 years. He enlisted as a Private, in Co. K, 137<sup>th</sup> Inf., N. Y. Vol. and was promoted to Com. Serg't. on September 25, 1862; to Serg't Maj. On October 15, 1862; to 2<sup>nd</sup> Leut. on November 11, 1862; to 1<sup>st</sup> Leut. on April 14, 1863; to Captain on 24 December 1863. He served at Chanslorsville, Gettysburg, and with Sherman from Chattanooga to Atlanta and through Georgia and North and South Carolina as an Orderly to Gen. Yancy (or Grany). After the war he lived in Slaterville, Tompkins County, NY.

**DON C.** – see Hanford, Don C.

**FRALICK, “LE”** – Luzern Fralick was born July 22, 1837 in Pennsylvania, the son of John F. & Sophia S. Strong Fralick. He was listed as a “mechanick” and was single when he enlisted for 3 years with Co.G, 50<sup>th</sup> Eng. N.Y. Vols. After the war he lived in Ithaca, Tompkins Co., NY.

**HANFORD, DON C.** – Don C. Hanford was born April 1, 1827 in the Town of Caroline, Tompkins Co., NY, the son of Harry & Laury Hutchinson Hanford. At the time of his enlistment for 1 year as a Private with Co. B, 178<sup>th</sup> Reg't, N Y Vols. he was a farmer and married. He enlisted September 1, 1864 and left for duty on September 17, 1864. He was promoted to Corporal on January 1, 1865. [ink was spilled on the page. Unit may be 176<sup>th</sup> or 179<sup>th</sup>.]

**HAWKINS, "JIM"** – James C. Hawkins enlisted in the Town of Ithaca in Co. I, 32<sup>nd</sup> NY Regt. on May 7, 1861. He was discharged on February 12, 1862 for disability.

**KRUM, BILL** – William B. Krum enlisted in Co. I, 32<sup>nd</sup> Reg't., N.Y.Vols. in the Town of Ithaca as a Private on May 7, 1861. He was discharged on September 27, 1862 for disability. He was married Emma M. Horton. He died in 1927 and was buried in Quick Cemetery, Town of Caroline, Tompkins Co., NY.

**MANDEVILLE, JOHN** – John L. Mandeville was born in 1836. He enlisted with Co. A, 50<sup>th</sup> Inf. Reg't., N Y Vol. He died November 29, 1907, aged 71 years and was buried in Quick Cemetery, Town of Caroline, Tompkins Co., NY.

**MARSH, ED** – Edward Marsh enlisted in the Town of Danby on September 5, 1861 with Co.E, 64<sup>th</sup> N Y Reg't. He was "Discharged" but no date was given.

**MARTIN, TOM** – Thomas V. B. Martin enlisted on November 28, 1861, in the Town of Ithaca as a Private in Co. I, 76<sup>th</sup> N.Y. Reg't. He was transferred to Co. M, 3<sup>rd</sup> N.Y. Art; Promoted to Corp, Serg't and 1<sup>st</sup> Lieut.; discharged July 20, 1865.

**PAUL** = Paul Landon – Paul H. Landon was born April 7, 1832 in Ulster Co., NY, the son of Heman & Rebecca Winchel Landon. He enlisted in Ithaca as a farmer and was married. He enlisted for 2 years in September 1861 as a Private in Co.I, 32<sup>nd</sup> Inf., N Y Vols. He died at David's Island, NY on June 1, 1862 of disease. His remains were brought home and buried in Quick Cemetery, Town of Caroline, Tompkins Co., NY.

**PERSONIUS, WALKER** – Walker V. Personius born 1836, died 1914, buried in Garrett Mandeville Dutch Reformed cemetery.

**QUICK, JOHNSON** – died January 10, 1897, aged 77 years, 1 month, and was buried in Quick Cemetery, Town of Caroline, Tompkins Co., NY.

**QUICK, RICHARD** -- believed to be Richard S. Quick who died February 6, 1892, aged 73 years, 10 months, 20 days and buried in Central Chapel Cemetery.

**"PARK"** – is believed to be James Madison Parker, born September 18, 1836 in Caroline, NY, the son of Samuel S. & Lydia Genung Parker. When he enlisted as a Private with Co. B, 109<sup>th</sup> Inf, NY Vols. he was married and a farmer. His enlistment record states he was promoted to Corp'l and then "to Gunner on July 1864. Stationed on Tennessee River Undine. Cap't at Paris Landing. Transferred to USS Cincinnati Nov. 18, 1864. Served at Mobile, was present at Surrender of Mobile. Promoted Gun Mate Aug. 15, 1865, discharged at Brooklyn Navy Yard."

**REED, "LEN"** – Leonard S. (or C) Reed was born in March 1844 in Caroline, Tompkins Co., NY, the son of Jacob & Abigail Bishop Reed. His enlistment records states he was single, a farmer, who enlisted on January 1, 1864 for 3 years as a Private in Co. A, 109<sup>th</sup> Inf., N Y Vols. After the war he returned to Mott's Corners, Tompkins Co., NY and is

buried in Cooper Cemetery, Brooktondale, Tompkins Co., NY but there are no dates on his stone.”

**ROE, GEORGE** – George Roe enlisted in Co. A, 109<sup>th</sup> Inf., N Y Vols. in August 1864 and received a \$10 “bounty”. No other information on his enlistment is available. He died June 27, 1864, aged 28 years, 11 months, 1 day and is buried in Roe Cemetery, Brooktondale, Tompkins Co., NY. The epitaph on his stone reads: “Far from affliction, toil, and care The happy soul is fled. The breathless day shall slumber there Among the Silent dead. For the Union he fought, for the Union he died With the foe of his country before him. Let the Nation remember his valor with pride And the star spangled banner wave o’er him.”

**ROE, “BILL”** – William Henry Roe was born January 1, 1842 in Mott’s Corners, Tompkins Co., NY, the son of James & Sarah An Personius Roe. At the time of his enlistment he was single and a farmer. He enlisted as a Private with Co. A, 109<sup>th</sup> Inf., for 3 years. After the war he returned to Mott’s Corners. His tombstone in the Garrett Mandeville Dutch Reformed Cemetery, Slaterville Springs, NY does not give a death date, but does list him as a “Corp.” and having died at age 59 years.

**RYAN, JOHN** – In *The History of Chemung, Schuyler, Tioga and Tompkins Counties, New York* the Town of Enfield records that John Ryan’s name was included in a “list of forty-two names obtained in New York City by John Puff, Supervisor at that time; he has no other record of them.”

**SHURTER, “HAP”** – Willis Shurter was born May 19, 1841 in the Town of Olive, Ulster County, NY, the son of Josiah & Jane Schutt Shurter. His enlistment record lists him as single, a farmer, who enlisted for 3 years in Co.A, 109<sup>th</sup> Inf., N Y Vols. on August 17, 1862 as a Private. He was “mustered” (left for duty) on August 27, 1862 and after the war returned to Mott’s Corners, Tompkins Co., NY. He died January 17, 1914, aged 73 years. He and his wife, Jennie, are buried in Roe Cemetery, Brooktondale, Tompkins Co., NY.

**SIMPSON, EUGENE** – Eugene Simpson enlisted in the Town of Ithaca with Co. I, 32<sup>nd</sup> Inf., N.Y. Vols. on May 7, 1861. He was killed September 14, 1862 at South Mountain.

**SNOW, “TIP”** – Harrison Snow was born March 11, 1840 in the Town of Caroline, Tompkins Co., NY, the son of Asa and Mary Eighmy Snow. His enlistment record lists him as a lumberman and married when he enlisted on September 1, 1861 as a Private with Co. G, 50<sup>th</sup> Eng., N. Y. Vols. After the war he lived in Mott’s Corners, [now Brooktondale] Tompkins Co., NY.

**SNOW, “AL”** – Alford Henry Snow was born February 9, 1837 in the Town of Caroline, Tompkins Co., NY, the son of Asa & Mary Eighmy Snow. His enlistment record lists him as a lumberman and single when he enlisted on September 1, 1861 as a private with Co. G, 50<sup>th</sup> Eng., N. Y. Vols. After the war he lived in Mott’s Corners, [now

Brooktondale] Tompkins Co., NY. He married Rebecca J. Dodd and died in 1915. They are buried in Quick Cemetery, Town of Caroline, Tompkins Co., N.Y.

**SPAULDING, BEN** – Benjamin F. Spaulding was born August 15, 1834 in New York State, the son of William & Eunice Cowel Spaulding. He enlisted in on April 27, 1861 for 2 years, as a Private, in Co. I, 32<sup>nd</sup> Inf., N.Y.Vols. He was married to Lucy Boyce and his occupation was listed as a farmer. He was an Orderly Serg't at the time of his death on November 28, 1862. He died at Hagerstown, VA of “chronic diareah” and his remains were brought home where he was buried in Quick Cemetery, Town of Caroline, Tompkins Co., N.Y.

**VANDEMARK, TOM** – Thomas Vandemark was born in 1831. He died in 1912 and was buried, with his wife Phebe A. and daughter Almira, in Cooper Cemetery, Brooktondale, NY.

**VOORHEES, BILL** – believed to be William L. Vorhis who died November 30, 1863, age 19. He served with the Signal Corp. and his name appears on the Civil War Veterans monument at the Town Hall in Danby.

**YAPLE, BILL FRANK** – William Franklin Yaple was born on April 7, 1842 in the Town of Caroline, Tompkins Co., NY, the son of William & Affy Wood Yaple. At the time of his enlistment on August 31, 1864 in the Town of Caroline, he was single and listed as a farmer. His enlistment records he was enlisted for 1 year as a Private. He was killed April 2, 1865 at Petersburg and buried at home in Slaterville, Tompkins Co., NY.