
1297 7/1/1861

From: O. O. Howard

To: My little daughter [Grace
Ellen Howard]

OOH-1236

Source: Bowdoin

Head Quarters
Howard's
Brigade Camp
Manassas

Head Quarters Howard's
Brigade Camp Manassas
[July 1, 1861]

My little daughter,

Papa has just finished a letter to Guy and he thinks Gracie will want a letter of her own; so papa swept a place big enough to sit down and began this while uncle Charlie wet the broom and finished sweeping the room. Papa's house has but one room in it, about as large as Aunt Sarah's kitchen. The chimney is built right out of doors on the end of the house, with a very large fire place opening into it from the inside of the house, thus: [picture of a fireplace and a stool in front]. Papa has a long table, thus: [picture of a table with an inkwell and other materials on the table] and Capt. Sewall a desk thus: [picture of a writing desk with a cabinet on top]. Out of doors at the corner of the house is a flag: [picture of the U.S. flag] which shows all the Regiments where your papa is to be found. Papa has three horses now. Uncle Charlie claims one for his. [picture of a horse and a rider, with C. S. on the front]. This is the picture of a horse belonging to the Rebel Government. Mr. Miles found him. Papa has given him to Abram to take care of. Now Gracie darling papa feels tired and it is getting near night, so if you will excuse him he will rest. Papa would like to be with you tonight so that he could talk with you all & get some sweet kisses, and he would like to go to church tomorrow. He would like to see Gracie and Guy at Sunday school. Poor Guy was not very well when Mamma wrote - papa hopes he is well now. Be a good little girl Gracie, love and obey Mamma, be loving & kind to brother Guy and to little Jamie. Much love from papa to cousins Minnie & Eva and to Aunt Sarah. Papa don't forget Orestes; if he is with you tell him so.

Good night and God bless my little daughter.

Your loving Father
O. O. Howard

[Note: There was no date. Someone had written Jul, 1861 in blue pencil. The reference to Aunt Sarah is to Sarah (Whitman) Jones and her children Orestes, Eva and Minnie.]

1298 7/2/1861

From: Otis [O.O. Howard]

To: My dearest Lizzie
[Howard]

OOH-1237

Mrs Carrolls
Washington DC

Source: Bowdoin

Mrs Carrolls
Washington DC
July 2 1861

My dearest Lizzie

I am sorry you heard I was ill. Increase distance may <infer> everything so much. I staid here last night. Yesterday evening I went to Secretary Seward's dinner at 7 P.M. Returned to Mrs Carrolls & staid the night. Today I am quite well, only a little stiff in the joints. We had a cold, wet night at camp, last night.

Several kisses to the Children, love to Susan. Is Catherine with you. Mr Carroll sends kindest regards. Mrs Carroll much love & their warmest remembrance to Sprigg & family.

Aff.
Otis

1299 7/4/1861

From: Otis [O.O. Howard]

To: My dearest Lizzie
[Howard]

OOH-1238

Washington D.C.

Source: Bowdoin

Washington D.C. July 4th 1861

My dearest Lizzie,

I though I would write you a few lines this morning, to let you know how I am &c. I received thro Mr Carter the package with its acceptable contents. The <Aeid> will be useful to me, so the pen wipe which is very pretty. I feel better this morning than I have for a week, am decidedly well. I have gone to Camp for the day & returned to Judge Carrolls in th evening. Mrs Carroll just came to Camp & took me in charge & really I have mended rapidly. I had the cramp pretty badly with the Cholera Morbus & was reduced in strength very fast. We are still at Meridian Hill. But <Oh> Judge Carroll is so sick with his old attacks that he suffers excruciating pains. I think my coming in has been a comfort to him & I believe I have been able to do one or two important errands, but I can do nothing Lizzie to repay the kind attention of Mrs Carroll to me. I shall try to stay out at Camp tonight. Everything goes better wh I am there. I do think of you & Guy & Grace <&> that little unconscious cherub Jamie. I think of you separately & together & pray for you. I seem so broken up in my old habits that I hardly know how to do. As to the Brig. Genl. I am as high as I deserve & feel that I am completely unequal to the position. What could I effect in a higher <one>. I don't think there is any danger at present of taking on from the Regiment.

Give much love to all. Kiss the children & tell them papa catches up little children when he can & kisses them. God bless & keep you darling ever in his love & <no fear>. Tell me about your money how it holds out. I cant get any pay & I hope Bacon has paid over to you all that is due me.

In much love
Otis

1300 7/4/1861

From: Enoch Pond

To: Dear Sir [O.O. Howard]

OOH-1239

Bangor

Source: Bowdoin

Bangor July 4, 1861

Dear Sir,

I drop you a line in behalf of my son-in-law, Mr George Blodgett of Bucksport. He is a pious, young man, of <> moral & Christian character, a graduate of Williamstown College. I think your brother knows him. He has been in commercial business with his brothers at Bucksport, but the <distress> of the times has broken them up, & he is now out of employment. He would like some situation in the army; to be an assistant or private secretary to some officer, as your brother Charles is to you. Can you procure any such situation for him, and what would be his compensation? Would you advise him to enter into any such situation? He is well acquainted with Maj. Pierce from Bucksport. He is a very pleasant young man, active, industrious, & entirely trust-worthy.

Just let me hear from you on the subject.

Kind regards to your brother Charles.

Yours very sincerely,
Enoch Pond.

[written in another hand]
Dr. Pond
Clerkship for son-in-law

1301 7/7/1861

From: [O.O. Howard]

To: My dearest Lizzie
[Howard]

OOH-1240

Alexandria Virginia

Source: Bowdoin

Alexandria Virginia July 7 1861

My dearest Lizzie

We are fairly across the Potomac. Yesterday we had Reveille at daylight, and loaded our own wagons & waited for transportation till after ten o'clock, when we marched through Washington & took the boat at the port of Sixth Street for Alexandria. The March was about five miles on the other side. After crossing we marched below Alexandria between two & three miles. This morning soon after sunrise I came in from Camp, breakfasted here & visited Col Heintzelman's Hd. Quarters. I had a dispatch last night from the War department asking me to select three Regiments besides my own & take charge of the Brigade. I am not to be Brig. Gen'l but only acting for the present, but I will have to be detached from my Regiment.

I am waiting here for Charles to send me some clothes from Camp & then I shall go over to Washington to make arrangements.

I hope I shall have a chance to go to Church a part of the day at least. Oh, Lizzie I should like to be home today where there is a different aspect of things from what we find here. This city is gloomy indeed - nearly all the houses shut up - beautiful residences deserted, no business transacted, except what an Army carries with it.

Soldiers at the best are like locusts - fences, & trees are consumed and private property generally is much infringed upon.

I received the package from Mr Custer & also another from Mr Kinsley. The things are very acceptable darling. You need not care for my clothing. In service we do not mind much what we wear. I had got flannel drawers from the State Supply of much the same kind as those you sent. How is little Guy this morning. Does he still love his saviour? Papa would like a little chat with him - papa has a little softening about the heart when he thinks of him. Gracie, happy & sprightly little bird how much papa would like a kiss - & Jamie, bless his little heart his mother can tell him about papa. I know God will bless my wife & children & I trust he will direct me in all my paths.

Remember me very affectionately to the Carrolls. I am going over to Mr Carrolls this morning. He was much better the last time I heard from him, but he has suffered dreadfully. How kind they have been to me & how little return I can make. Has Charlie Carroll got his appointment yet? How is Mrs. Greble, Neddie & my little god-daughter? I wrote Mrs Greble soon after poor John's death but don't know that she got my letter. She has my heart felt sympathies. I cleft from the paper the other day some of John's last loving words, just before he left for the fatal field. They made my cry. Mr French's friends regretted to lose us from their vicinage.

My boy has come with my clothes so Good bye. I wanted to mention Professor Church & Mrs C. I presume I may expect him tomorrow.

Bear a cheerful heart Lizzie. When you want money don't conceal it from me - though I have none now.

Very lovingly, Your own husband

Otis

1302 7/10/1861

From: Chauncey
McKeever
Hd Qr 2nd Division
Alexandria

To: Col. [OO] Howard

OOH-1241

Comdg 3rd Brigade

Source: Bowdoin

Hd Qr 2nd Division
Alexandria July 10th 1861

Col. Howard
Comdg 3rd Brigade

Sir

The bearer of this note, R. F. Roberts, states that privates of the 4th & 5th Maine Regts have been committing depredations on his property, stealing potatoes &c. The Colonel Commanding wishes you to investigate the matter and put a stop at once to all such proceedings. If the men can be identified, punish them severely.

Very Respectfully &c
Chauncey McKeever
A. Adjt. Gen'l

P.S. Can you send in your Brigade return this morning?

1303 7/13/1861 *From:* Chas. M. Morse

To: My Dear Mrs [Martha
Jane] Strickland

OOH-1242

Waterville

Source: Bowdoin

Waterville July 13th, 1861

My Dear Mrs [Martha Jane] Strickland,

We learn from Mrs Additon, who came to see us yesterday, that you are at Leeds. We shall be very happy to see you and hope you will not return without making us a visit. If you could come as early as the middle of next week you would probably find Mrs Additon here, but suit your convenience about the time - only do not disappoint us.

Pardon us for enclosing a ticket for you to use from Leeds to Waterville.

My office is in the Station and the Conductor will assist you in finding me.

In behalf of Elizabeth and the children,

I am very truly yours
Chas. M. Morse

P.S. Bring the children also - for Mr Barrell informs me that they were with you.

1304 7/15/1861 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

To: My dearest Wife [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1243

Source: Bowdoin

Hd Qrs 3d Brigade
3d Divn Clermont
Fairfax Co Va

Hd Qrs 3d Brigade
3d Divn Clermont
Fairfax Co Va
July 15 1861

My dearest Wife,

I have taken my pen to write you and have been interrupted already several times. This commanding 3000 men is some work, particularly in the enemy's country, but I have got along without much difficulty thus far. Mordecai is my actg. Asst. Lt Buel is my aide. Lieut Burt Quartermaster. Charles is our clerk. We are in a room in Commodore Forrest's house. It is a lovely location some five or six miles out of Alexandria. If we were to remain here you couldn't have a better place to spend the summer, but we don't remain long in a place. We took three armed men day before yesterday, two from an Alabama Regiment - one a young lawyer quite intelligent.

I am now very well indeed. Not till day before yesterday did I get a letter from you, the one you sent by Professor Church. We kept missing each other till then. I went to Alexandria & crossed in a steam ferry boat to Washington - had a few minutes to stay - found Professor Church & Maj Kendrick at Willards. Perry Lee came over to see us yesterday. He has lost his place in the Navy. I don't know the cause of it. He went to Washington today & will return tonight to stop with us a few days.

But how are you? I wish I could just drop in. I am sorry you sent me the money you did, for I fear you must need it. I shall be paid in a few days & then, darling, I will refund. Does Guy continue to learn & think. Give him a sweet kiss from papa. Has Grace forgotten papa yet. Just think, daughter, how happy papa will be to clasp you in his arms & have one of those good hugs & kisses. Poor little Jamie, he don't know me at all but you can kiss him several times for me.

My kindest regards to Carroll & fam. I wanted somebody with experience so much that I ventured to ask him if he would accept the apt adjutant Gen'l position. Now I have to be wide awake & clearheaded whether or no.

Yesterday I preached to the 3d Regt. Their Chaplain has resigned & gone home & afterwards addressed the 5th Maine Regt. May God prosper & bless you & the children is my daily prayer.

Aff. Your own
Otis

1305 7/15/1861 *From:* Samuel Harris

To: Col. [O. O.] Howard

OOH-1244

Bangor

Source: Bowdoin

Bangor, July 15, 1861.

Col. Howard,
Dear Sir,

It is the expectation here that you will be appointed Brig. Gen. - an expectation founded, I suppose, on the obvious fitness of the appointment & confirmed by your present temporary appointment to act in that capacity. If thus appointed, I suppose a Brigade Surgeon will be one of your staff. On this subject, I take the liberty to address you. Dr. McKuen of this city has been approved by the Medical Board & very probably will be appointed. He is at the head of the profession in this region, & is eminent as a surgeon, being professionally all that could be desired. He is also of pure & high toned moral character, of refined & delicate feelings, of gentlemanly bearing, & high general intellectual culture. I am sure he is such a man as would be agreeable to you in this relating.

On speaking of the subject this afternoon he mentioned the probability of your promotion & said that it would be a great inducement to accept such an appointment if he could be under you as General. This preference he expressed on the ground of what he knew of your character. As he is my family physician & I am strongly attached to him, I determined immediately to presume on the slight acquaintance I have had with you, & to address you on the subject.

Providence has thrown you into a very different position from that which you were anticipating - in usefulness & honor of the highest importance. May God keep you & bless you.

Please give my regards to your brother, & accept my best wishes.

Yours Truly,
Samuel Harris

P.S. Dr. McK. Will make a decided pecuniary sacrifice if he accepts this appointment. He is actuated I believe by disinterested patriotism, by the benevolent disposition of a high minded physician to do all the good he can by his professional [CHECK ORIGINAL - missing page?]

1306 7/16/1861

From: Rowland [B.
Howard]

To: Dear Sister Lizzie
[Howard]

OOH-1245

Farmington

Source: Bowdoin

Farmington July 16, 1861

Dear Sister Lizzie

I write because I think you would like to hear from us. Sarah [Sargent] came last Fri. night with her little family & a girl. She staid with us till Monday & is now at a Mr Hardy's - boarding. He takes them for \$5_ per week! The girl is working for her board. Sarah thinks she is saving money very fast will remain till she gets her house ready for occupancy. They are all well. Most of the people here had rather sell than rent houses & they are so low now & the place is filling up so much that I think a house costing \$1600 would be a good investment.

I wrote Charles that if Otis would buy a house for you, I would guarenty a good rent for it when you get thro' with it. There is a cottage that I think would just suit you and if you choose not to buy, I shall try to persuade the man to rent it to you. His wife is now sick, & unable to move, but he thinks she will be before a great while. He is very desirous of selling & the house could be bought much below the cost & it is quite new.

Our friends at Leeds are well. Aunt Martha, Fred & Carrie [Strickland] are visiting there now. I saw Vaughan Otis a fortnight since & he cannot continue thro' the summer it seems to me.

Charles wrote Mother & she sent me the letter the 3d of July. I have not heard from them since except thro' the papers. Otis does not write at all. We have heard thro' the Soldiers that he has quite recovered from his illness & is acting as Brig. Gen. I am so glad that Charles can be with him if he is sick &c.

How are all your little ones? Sarahs train pretty well & yet I think they are as good as children generally. Chas wrote that you could keep your house at West Pt. I hope you will be able to, until I can get one to suit you here & then you will have one move only. I wish I could come on for you. Will Susan come with you? I did not know but that Otis could detail Charles to come to Maine with you.

The Diptheria still prevails to some extent in this region. Would you fear it more here than at places where there are fewer cases? Some one or two are sick in the town with it all the time.

Ella is pretty well tho troubled some with a swelling of her feet & ankles. Her sister Hattie & a cousin of the same age from Bath are visiting us now. Saw Alice & Helen in Bruns. & they said they would write you.

Love to the dear children from Uncle.

Rowland

Ella sends a great deal of love.

1307 7/17/1861 *From:* Sarah B. F. Greble

To: My very kind Friend
[O.O. Howard]

OOH-1246

West Point

Source: Bowdoin

West Point July 17th 1861

My very kind Friend

I have allowed a whole month to roll rapidly by without sending one line to thank you for the sweet little words of comfort you sent me but believe me I felt them deeply. You are now truly the God Father of our little baby daughter - little Clara is a perfect treasure and the greatest comfort for me. I know you pray for her. I can scarcely tell you how much responsibility I feel it is to have to bring up my two little ones without a Father's care.

Edwin is thoroughly a head strong willful boy, if I can only, with God's assistance, bring him up well he will make the better man. Your dear little brave wife came to see me a few days since. We spoke of these bright memories we have of these two dear cottages where we were all so very happy. I feel daily thankful you are our little ones spiritual father. I heard a very sad piece of news today that Smead (Abner) [USMA Class of 1854] I mean is now in an Insane Retreat. I feel sorry that so many of your class should have left our ranks. Mr Webb [USMA class of 1954] has returned from Pickens. <Wade Whalen> and Randall have been ordered from here for the present. It must be a comfort to have your brother so closely associated with you.

I am most thankful that you as an intelligent well instructed soldier, and soldier of the Cross should have so important a command that Our Heavenly Father may give you strength wisdom and courage to do that which is best for our poor Country is the prayers of many hearts for you. We all miss you from West Point they say tis sadly changed but to me with all its sweet memories of our happy <lives days under> those first two years of happy wedded life and our little having been given to us. Here will always be the dearest spot on earth - excepting one which holds all that held all which was nearest and dearest to me on earth - that is at Woodlands near Philadelphia. I am so thankful I feel his soul is with our kind Saviour, - for he was truly and consistently an upright good man.

Many thanks for that walk and talk you took with my dear Husband. He often spoke of it with pleasure. He said his prayers always nightly and read his Bible faithfully - & relied upon God and asked him for Grace to act rightly. I tell you this because I know you will be glad to know how he stood in the eyes of God who seeth the heart but I am trespassing too much upon you time.

With every wish for your success in all you undertake and safe return to us believe me

Ever your true friend
Sarah B. F. Greble

There is a strong movement being made to displace Father - his disloyalty to the Union is the point on which they hope to effect it I suppose. Father says he will <know> his principles fearlessly, but will not raise his finger, to hold this position. He did not seek it. It was pressed upon him. He I know is one of strongest understandingly true Union men and has always taught us that love of Country was next to love of God.

1308 7/18/1861 *From:* Lizzie [Howard]

To: My dearest Otis [O.O.
Howard]

OOH-1247

West Point

Source: Bowdoin

West Point, July 18, 1861

My dearest Otis

I have finished reading the morning papers. Fairfax Court House has been reached and you continue to advance. May God direct and protect you. I wrote you a long letter last week and Guy also wrote, directed it to Alexandria. I got a letter from Charlie Tuesday. I am very glad he is so ready to write to me for you. He said direct as before. Mrs. Greble has sent a note to be enclosed to you. Do give my kind regards to Mrs Sampson. I am very glad she is with you. I wrote to Ella this week.

It seems to be the impression now that the rebels will make no stand this side of Richmond and after you reach Manassas Junction Gen Scott will take his own time to advance, perhaps September. Would you leave at all were such the case, and we were here? I think I have as much fear of your being sick as from being injured by the rebels. I hope you will be careful of yourself, of your own health as you are of your men.

Dr. McDougall has been away nearly two months on the medical Examination Board. He was home last Sunday week asked when I had heard from my good husband. His son-in-law Capt Adams has resigned and the family are very much agrieved by it. He was from Tennessee and will not join the southern army. He has nothing and his wife and four children are expected here. Lieut Wheeler gone to Old Point. West Point is very quiet. Mrs Vincent is still here. I wish we could keep her north. I don't know what her feelings are now. Mr Buck is going to house keeping.

I don't think I will have much to do myself when I move. Mr Carroll is exceedingly kind. He said Saturday he would send Haller to me, and I must tell him just what I wanted. Mr Newland says anything we can do for you, you must say so. I am happy here, and I shall be when I am in Farmington, and I don't think the move and journey will be any trouble really. We know the route perfectly. I write as if was about to start, but I write because I thought of the subject just now.

It is Mrs Blunt's straw carriage I have for the baby. We all, Guy, Grace, Jamie, Katie Carroll, Harry Duane, and myself went to walk yesterday, down the road towards the Falls. Katie generally breakfasts with us, her message is, "Mama says so if the children will come over to lunch." After is in to prayers. Jamie is very well, fat as need be, always happy. Guy just came up stairs. I asked if he had any message to Papa. He said send papa a kiss and ask him to answer my letter quick, then runs down stairs, "hep, hep, hep".

You have never mentioned your horse. Mangler said he saw an indication to stumble once when slowly trotting, but Mr Carter said he should'nt think he was a stumbling horse.

I called to see Mrs Mahan (Prof M by the way is in Washington) Mrs Douglas, day before yesterday, met at the latter place Mrs Cranghill and Mrs Wheeler. Prof Church wrote home he met you on horseback, and was going to see you next day.

I send this to-day to Washington and my next, unless I hear from you, to Alexandria. Love to Charlie. I don't hear from Maine often. I wrote Aunt Sarah in answer to her letter a few days ago.

With much love and earnest prayers from your
own wife Lizzie

1309 7/18/1861 *From:* O. O. Howard

To: My dearest Lizzie
[Howard]

OOH-1248

Sangster

Source: Bowdoin

Sangster July 18th 1861

My dearest Lizzie,

You can see where we are now a few miles in advance of Fairfax Station. The Station has been taken, also the Fairfax Court house. Thus far the rebel troops have retired as we advanced. We encamped the first night on the ground just across the stream <Poilse> [Pohick?]. After marching till very late at night. The one hour's sleep I got was very refreshing. Last night I had a good sleep for the whole night.

Two serious accidents have occurred in my Brigade. Two men have carelessly shot themselves. One by the name of Barker and the other by name of McLellan, both in the 5th Maine regts. I am not sure where we shall move (nor just when) from this place.

Tell Guy papa read his letter with much delight. A Brigadier General, is a man who commands four Regiments, tell Guy. Sometimes he commands only two or three.

We expected a battle yesterday but the enemy ran. I wish we had men, who had more regard for the Lord. We might then expect his blessing.

Gracie & Jamie must be good children. Much love & many kisses. You must stay at West Point as long as you think is advisable. I am afraid you have shortened your allowance of money too much. With much love for my darling wife & children.

O. O. Howard

1310 7/18/1861 *From:* I. Washburn Jr

To: Col. O. O. Howard

OOH-1249

Augusta

Act'g Br. Gen'l
Va.

Source: Bowdoin

Augusta July 18, 1861

My dear Col.

I rec'd but yesterday your letter in reference to paying for the instruments furnished the Band of your Reg't.

There is no doubt I think that the State will provide for paying your acceptance. Before it can do this you should make out duplicate bills of the instruments & prices ag't the State, & receipt them. Send an order to the party holding your acceptance to receive of Nathan Dane, Treasurer, the amount of the warrant drawn in your favor for musical instruments.

The Hotel bills in W. have been paid.

We are honored by the distinction you have rec'd & gratified.

Yours truly,
I. Washburn Jr

Col. O. O. Howard
Act'g Br. Gen'l
Va.

1311 7/19/1861 *From:* Lizzie [Howard]

To: My dearest Otis [O.O.
Howard]

OOH-1250

West Point N.Y.

Source: Bowdoin

West Point N.Y. July 19, 1861
Friday Evening 10 o'clock

My dearest Otis

It is almost too late to think of writing a letter to night, but Mr Kinsley has been to see me, and has told me a great many things which were full of interest to me. He told me when and where he saw you every time. I told him I would report him favorably to you. He wished to be remembered. I don't expect you to write as much as he could tell me.

If Cousin Perry comes to New York I would like him to come to West Point very much. Sarah is now at Farmington boarding at present, likes very well indeed. I take it from Rowland's letter of to-day. Rowland said he had written something about your purchasing a house in Farmington. I wouldn't have you for anything and I don't think you would wish it. I rather not go there if I would have to do that and shall write to him that I have no desire to do so. Guy will be very happy to now you got his letter as Mr Kinsley said you had. I have mailed a letter to Washington since.

Sunday Afternoon 4 o'clock. Dearest, I feel unsettled, anxious, too restless to do anything and perhaps too much so to write. Guy has gone to Sunday School. He was very anxious to go last Sunday although it looked like a shower. I taught him his lesson and he started, it began to rain before the School finished, but he went to camp and sat in the "Reception tent" with Mr Smith, for an hour or more afterwards, when Mr Smith borrowed an umbrella of a Lady there and walked down with him. To day he spoke of going when at dinner, and I reminded him when it was time to dress, taught him his lesson and he went alone, with his book in his hand, very happy.

Jamie waked just now. He will no longer stay in ones lap. He creeps, has done so two days much to the delight of Grace, only when she and Katie are having a tea party, then she calls him a rogue very pleasantly, and begs Susan to take him. Grace is down stairs talking very earnestly to Catherine. Susan is out and Jamie is my dear little charge to-day. I took Grace to church with me this morning. She was a little restless but kept still, that is, did not talk. Guy looked very happy when I told him of Mr Kinsley's visit, and that you had received his letter, and sent him more. It was as he said about a Gen'l. He expects a letter soon.

I was too much amused when he said I guess papa didn't read about "going to Washington" because he didn't say anything about it. Guy returned from S School and an hour passed very rapidly while engaged reading and talking with him. He is as thoughtful as ever. The three are now asleep and talked I heard a short time ago. I don't feel that I have anything to write but I am thinking of you. I would like to be told it is well with thee to-night every way, but I must wait and trust.

Monday morning. I have read the papers this morning. Everything looks so uncertain. I shall look at the evening papers. I received your letter, dearest, written on the 18th at Sangsters, this morning. We are all perfectly well. Love to Charlie. Mr Carroll sent a man to take the measure of things for boxes. Guy says send a kiss to Papa. I shall be here if nothing happens and God willing, about a month longer.

May you be protected from harm, and come back to us, if it is the will of God.

Ever you own Lizzie

I enclosed in my last a note from Mrs Greble and sent to Washington. Please tell me where to direct letters.

1312 7/20/1861 *From:* Otis [O.O. Howard] *To:* Dearest Lizzie [Howard]

OOH-1251

Hd Qrs 3d Brigade

Source: Bowdoin

Hd Qrs 3d Brigade
July 20 1861

Dearest Lizzie

I am well & so is Charles. We are near Centreville. We haven't yet been in battle. The Lord will take care of us. I feel <we're> not so wicked. He would not bring such disasters upon us as Tyler's defeat. Give papa's love & kisses to Guy & Grace & Jamie. Much regard to Susan & Catherine & John. Remember me to the Church & the French's, but above all remember me continually at the throne of Grace.

Affectionately your own husband
Otis

1313 7/22/1861 *From:* Lizzie [Howard]

To: My dearest Otis [O.O.
Howard]

OOH-1252

West Point, N.Y.

Source: Bowdoin

West Point, N.Y. July 22, 1861 [CHECK ORIGINAL - page 1 out of focus]

My dearest Otis

I have been looking at my paper for about three minutes not knowing what to write first. This morning the papers were all hope, and this evening filled with the like none before - the terrible loss - a mourning country indeed - indescribable seems almost lost in the great calamity, but every individual can mourn over it as we look at it, although it may be best, and the Lord <> it to our future good. You passed through <>. I am thankful, and feel to throw myself at the foot of Jesus, and say, they are indeed <> I don't want to be selfish about it. I think I feel humbled before God by it. Mrs Lyon, Mrs Wall, Mrs Battery. I feel for them. The poor Mr Griffin was <> he thought so much of his battery. Mr Manwell is sick in bed I hear. Col. Bowman <> this afternoon, long before the morning papers came. He was very much affected by the report. <> my first news was [page 2] Mr Newland passing, remarked to someone coming, "They say we are whipped". I caught the whole truth in an instant, and soon ventured to ask Mr Carroll when he returned to dinner. I could scarcely believe we had met with so great a loss, and retreated. I went to ride with Mr and Mrs Carroll this evening, got the evening paper then, found Mr Smith here when I returned, to pass the evening. This class say they cannot remain here, are to petition to go away immediately.

It was very thoughtful in you and Charlie to telegraph to me, or him only. Outwardly I feel the same, but that was a beam of sunshine that went directly to my heart. I have written you twice since Guy's letter, both sent to Washington. I shall expect a letter from you next Thursday. I don't feel greatly disappointed when I get no letter for I know you have not much time to yourself and the papers are next to Charlie's letter. I am so glad Charlie is with you.

Morning. The exaggerated accounts we received last evening were terrific. I find it not nearly so great a loss and disaster. In the language of war, I feel this will be avenged. It seems to be stirring all to more nearly a united feeling and action.

We are all well here. A report that Major Bowman is called into active service.

Our mail now leaves at 12 o'clock so I don't have much time to write after reading the paper. I hope you can write soon. I feel that you are in the hands of God. I can trust you in his care.

Your dear Lizzie

1314 7/24/1861 *From:* Otis [O.O. Howard]

To: My dearest wife [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1253

City Hotel Alexandria Va

Source: Bowdoin

City Hotel Alexandria Va
July 24th 1861

My dearest wife

On my arrival after our wearisome retreat at this place I was cheered by an affectionate letter from you enclosing one from my poor friend Mrs Greble. Since then I have been hard at work organizing, feeding & quartering troops. Our battle was planned so as to break God's holy day. Charlie & I were under fire & know what it is to hear balls whistle. My horse had a ball put thro his gambrel [gambrel] & is very lame. After we had reached Fairfax C.H. somebody stole him from me, but I recovered him.

The battle was about ten miles beyond Centreville by the road we took. We were halted by Gen McDowell some six or seven miles this side of the field, & then were ordered to hasten on, & when about half way the order came to move at double quick, which we tried to do under a hot sun. The men were many of them exhausted when we came into sight of the battle.

We passed the wounded for a while before we got into the open plain. We then marched about a mile under fire from heavy guns, formed two lines, one of the 2nd Vt. Regt Col Whiting & the 4th Maine - Col Berry. The other of the 3d & 5th Maine. I marched up the first line & got them well at work & then returned to the valley below for the other line. I brought that up also.. We ascended a hill through a piece of brush wood and then emerged into an open space and it was a warm place indeed. A battery on our right & another on our left were pouring the shot upon us & the musketry from the front. I felt in no way unpleasant on the field. I kept sending Chas. Off on duty. No balls touched any of us. Mordecjai & Lt Buel were much exposed but a Good Providence or rather a Good Lord protected us. We retreated when ordered to do so at a walk, but all the troops were mixed up - till we got to Centreville. Then we organized & marched back after an hour's sleep to Fairfax Court House - slept till daylight on the ground & then retired in order to Clermont. The cars came to take the troops to town - where I got quarters for them & here we are, all but my own Regiment which I sent to Clermont yesterday. I am going out there tonight.

Much love to the children. I shall write Guy just as soon as I can. Keep up a good heart darling. We have met with a sad reverse. Our baggage nearly all cut off. I lost all my papers some clothes & your miniature

Aff. Your husband
Otis

1315 7/25/1861 *From:* Eliza Gilmore

To: O O Howard C H Howard

OOH-1254

Leeds

Source: Bowdoin

Leeds, July 25th 1861.

My Dear Sons, Otis and Charles,

Knowing in a general way all that has befallen you, I will not refer to it in particular. I have received Otis letter written 14th inst. for which I am greatly obliged and I think some what thankful, Charles' of the 18th, 20th and Mrs Sampson's of 22nd, all of which I fear I do not deserve. God has kept me in "a way I know not" after our first shock. In our suspense I felt to rely on my heavenly father. When I felt to rely on my heavenly father then I was at rest. I hope our people will not have sickness to encounter in this hour of trial.

Henry Turner's father and Sanford Gilbert have been here a number of evenings the past week hoping to get some news of Henry and John Keene. Up to the last evening they had heard nothing. They desired me to say so, in my letter, so if you had it, in your power you would mention them to me. How very kind every body is to me.

Friday Rowland wrote me a long letter, enclosed Otis last to Lizzie and a short one from Lizzie to him. I have never said much to Lizzie on the subject of coming to Maine, but always feel (when the subject is approached) that she belongs to me, that is Lizzie and the Children. Our family consists of your father and I, Thomas and Abbie, his wife. We are a long distance from Church, and not much refined society about us, but if Lizzie after her arrival here, feels contented to stay with us, we are happy to have her do so. Somehow it seems to me quite an undertaking for her to begin housekeeping with her three little ones, but she can do what she thinks best after she gets here. All her baggage will have to be changed at Leeds Junction so it need not be forwarded to Farming. until she needs it there. These are only suggestions of mine.

I went to Farmington last week with my sister M.J. Strictland and Fred, and Carrie. Saw Sarah and her four little ones. They were boarding at the time, and I do not know how long she will continue to do so. We brought Frank and Tim down to Ensigns to stop a while. Sister Martha and F, C left here for Hallowel, by the way of Waterville to stop at that place, two nights. I expect to hear from her at Hallowel.

Everything seems to me of minor importance accept our National trouble. Everybody in good state of health (as far as I know) in town. If either of you can drop a few lines to me occasionally it will gratify me very much. I am extremely obliged to Mrs Sampson for her kind letters to me, and hope in providence, some day, to make her acquaintance in person, and thank her with my own mouth.

We have had a smart rain to day, which has kept us from Church. It is now nearly night. Everything is beautiful about here. Your father has been getting hay two weeks, and has been very successful. Thomas and one other man has made our gang for hay making. Your father oversee's the work and helps when he can do the most good.

You are at all times accompanied with your mother hopes, and fears, and prayers.

Eliza Gilmore

O O Howard C H Howard

1316 7/25/1861 *From:* O. O. Howard

To: My darling Boy [Guy
Howard]

OOH-1255

Head Quarters 3d
Brigade
Bush Hill

Source: Bowdoin

Head Quarters 3d Brigade
Bush Hill July 25, 1861

My darling Boy

After the battle that papa wrote about in his last letter - papa went back with all his men to Alexandria. Now he has sent two Regiments back to their old encampment four miles out of town near Clermont. Papa has come to live a little beyond Clermont at Bush Hill. It is a nice farm, a big house on a hill, with a beautiful garden. Mrs Scott lives here with four little children - one little boy, Frank, another Marshall & a little girl called "Cony". The fourth child I have not seen. Mrs Scott is just about as big as Mamma. She asked your papa to conduct prayers this morning. The little ones repeated the Lord's prayer after me as you & Gracie do, & it makes papa cry to think of it. O, Guy, my son, do love God & serve him. I cant write more now. Sweet kiss to dear mama, my lovely daughter Gracie, & precious baby Jamie. May God bless & keep you all for Christ's sake. Uncle Charlie sends love to all.

Very affectionately & tenderly your papa
O. O. Howard

1317 7/26/1861 *From:* Lizzie [Howard]

To: My dearest Otis [O.O.
Howard]

OOH-1256

West Point

Source: Bowdoin

West Point July 26 1861
Friday Evening

My dearest Otis

I was very much gratified to get a letter from Mrs Sampson late last evening (we had two mails per day). I wish you would remember me very kindly to her. I will write her soon.

I saw Lieut Owens [Wesley Owens, USMA Class of 1856] at the Carrolls evening before last. He was expecting to go to Washington the next morning. He said he had no authority to go into active service, but had obtained a leave, and was going to do something. Wanted first to get on Col Heintzelman's staff. Then you were entitled to two "aids". There might be a place for him, and if he could do nothing more, he should go to McCook and tell him to give him a place and something to eat. It does my heart good to find a man decided. About ten o'clock that same night he got orders to go to Buffalo, to muster in troops. Lieut Comstock [Cyrus B Comstock, USMA class of 1855] leaves tomorrow for Washington with the "Suppers" late returned from Oregon. Prof. Mahan returned to instruct the present first class in engineering. Mr Smith says they will be away in three weeks. He has or will write you. He would like to be connected with one of the Maine Regiments.

I want to communicate a lamentable fact. There are Cadets here who openly rejoice at the defeat, retreat, or by what unfortunate name you may call it of the Union troops. I say they ought to go, no, be arrested. I hope they will have a stronger oath of allegiance than the last class, one they can't get around, and not be allowed to receive a Diploma. There is one in contemplation by a portion of the Class.

What a terrible sad affair of Col Miles. He is from Maryland. Shall we prosper if we are not purer. Mr Smith is here this morning Saturday I am going to Newburgh. God still have you in his care. All quite well.

Your own Lizzie

Sunday evening. My dearest Otis. In my haste to go to Newburgh last Saturday I neglected to put a stamp on my letter and Mrs B very foolishly kept it at the Post Office. Otherwise you would now have had it.

We, Mr Smith, Guy, Grace and myself, had a very pleasant call at the Phillips saw Mrs Williams and children. All inquired very affectionately about you. They heard of you through a Mr Post of Newburgh. We left her at ten o'clock and came back to dear little Jamie at one o'clock.

I went without seeing the mail, and was very happy to find a good letter from you and also Guy's on my return. He thought a great deal of his letter, says he must write another letter to Papa. I had a good long cry over it alone and then read it very cheerfully to dear Guy, but I think I am pretty brave, darling.

I now to say to you some things were necessary to a certain extent, but now I don't think so. I see that "but one thing is needful" and so far as this world goes, it doesn't much matter. This is not our home, and I only ask that I may do my duty while here.

I received a letter from Mrs Merrick last week written the 8 of July, when Vaughan went home. She thought I would be at Augusta. "William has written you and so has Uncle John Vaughan" but had not answer them at that time. William has lost his younger brother, died after his return from Cuba (of yellow fever I heard through Blanche), sent much love to you. I got another letter from Ella. Rowland has not got a house for me yet, but says I better stay here till the last of August, then go to Leeds. And as I can go back and forth between those two places conveniently I can see the houses myself before he decides.

Sarah will buy one, but she wishes a permanent home. I may not and yet I may, the Lord knows and He knows best. I think I would prefer to do this way, as Rowland says. I think our good mother might think it not just right to take the children passed Leeds and not stop. Mr Smith thinks his brother (elder) will come to West Point

when he is about to leave, and that would be just the thing to please me. I will go on with him. It has always been my fortune to fall into good hands and I presume I always shall, so do not be at all anxious about us. We Ladies meet next Tuesday to sew or see what we can sew for the Wounded. About the battle and you being exposed I don't now what to say. If it was for me to say, come back now. I don't now as I could say it, because I fear it would'nt be doing right, but may God watch over you and bring you back in his own good time. I hav'nt heard anything from Mr Benjamin, but have heard of all other friends.

Mrs Vincent joins her husband this week. Mr Douglas takes her. I could send you anything every time, if you would say what you would like. And what you have lost that you need. That miniature is a great run-away. You may have another look after it.

Saturday morning. Grace sends her love to Papa, and says she is happy. I tell her not to cry sometimes because I always like her to be happy so I can tell Papa and that is what she means. Guy is out playing. Jamie is asleep. I am very well.

Give much love to Charlie. I enclosed your last letter to Mother this morning.

Your own Lizzie

Lieut Williams has written to Washington about those Cadets.

1318 7/29/1861 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

To: My dear Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-1258

Head Quarters 3d
Brigade

Source: Bowdoin

Head Quarters 3d Brigade
July 29th 1861

My dear Mother,

Charles says, Mother says I have not written her a letter since I have been here. It seems hardly possible. I thought I had written two. But I remember now that I began a letter to you which I did not finish. Already since I began this I have been interrupted several times.

Since our return from Bull's Run the men have been very much disheartened & hundreds of cases of sickness occur. Everybody wants to get discharged & go home. The Colonels of the regiment are discouraged, but I am in hopes things will brighten soon. I do not lose heart. I try to rely upon the Giver of strength.

War in earnest is a dreadful thing and has a dreadfully demoralizing influence upon all of us. I try to pray & to love Christ & to do my Master's will, but I cant help longing for peace, when we can live in our own homes & not destroy the crops & gardens of other people. The real sickness of our own people, is profaning the name of God & in taking the property of quiet citizens has sickened me to the heart. But I am in hopes God will not remember our offences against us to destroy us, though I fear we deserve the severest chastening.

I am always rejoiced to hear from you my dear mother, and think now I shall have more time to write you.

Governor Washburn was here today & made us a little visit. He is looking out for our interest.

Charles is a great comfort to me, sleeps with me. He seldom leaves me. I give him a horse & he rides by my side.

My little horse was shot through the leg, but is getting well. Charlie went from me on the battle field to bring up the ambulances & to get instructions & then returned to me. I was afraid he might get hurt but neither himself nor his horse was hurt. It was a pretty hot place - the air seemed full of whistling bullets but generally I had too much to do to stop & think much about them. However in the midst of danger I felt at peace in my heart. You would think that a battle would be horrible & sickening, but the sense of personal danger & the effort necessary to meet it, makes one feel very differently from what he would anticipate.

I should like to see Lizzie & the children. I only hear good accounts from them. I am afraid Lizzie will wear herself out with her care & anxiety combined. I don't believe I shall cry for someone when peace comes. How is Father?

Perhaps you would like to know our companions. My Brigade Quartermaster is Lt Burt, Asst Adjt General Lt. Mordecai. Commissary Lt Smith of Bath. I have just got Perry Lee an appointment as 1st Lieutenant in the Hallowell Company.

Give love to Father & my good friends near home. Love from Charles.

Affectionately your son,
Otis

1319 7/30/1861 *From:* Ella [Howard]

To: My dear brother Charles
[Howard]

OOH-1257a

Farmington

Source: Bowdoin

Farmington July 30th 1861

My dear brother Charles,

Rowland has gone to our Wednesday evening meeting & left me at house, because it is rainy, & too far to walk.

We received your letter just as we were at tea, and it was read, before we got through our supper. You may be sure your letters are looked for, & received very eagerly. I told Rowland two or three days ago, that I guessed I should write you, but somehow since you've go to be a "soger boy", it seems as if you were not exactly the same Charles you used to be. And so I am a little puzzled how to write!

You can imagine how very thankful we were to hear of your safety, after that awful battle. O it is awful to have friends in such danger! I believe I love my friends better than I do my country! But we have been very thankful that Otis could have you with him - especially in his sickness. There's one thing I want to now about, that people never tell, & I never find except in novels, I believe - & that is, how one feels - how you felt for instance, that Sat. night before the battle - when you didn't know but that night would be the last to you on earth. What you thought most about & how everything seemed to you then. The world & its pleasures must have looked very small - very mean to you - but did you have any fear? Fear of death. I mean particularly. I have tried many times to imagine a person's feelings at such times - and I would really like to now from one who has experienced them.

We realize very little of the horrors of this war, except as you are connected with it. We are so far away from every thing in any way war like that we should almost forget all about it if we hadn't a daily paper & two brothers in the army. We haven't even a telegraph here. We wished we had, for a few days after the battle, I assure you.

Some of the ladies - old and young - have started a Society, which they call the "Soldiers' Aid Society" & in which they intend to work for our soldiers - especially for sick, & wounded. The Ladies have been somewhat troubled, as to what to make. I believe Rowland has mentioned it to you once, but you have <[CHECK ORIGINAL - glued edge of page 4]> assisted us any as yet! Can you give us a few hints, as to what articles would be most useful, that we could make, & send on? There are many things I suppose which Government doesn't furnish that would add very much to the comforts of sick men.

If you can help us any, we would be very grateful to you. I thought I would write to Mrs Sampson as she would be most likely to know, but I don't know as that is necessary. The Soc met here this afternoon. It is the first <time I> have been at one of the meetings. <There> were quite a no. here though <> being so unpleasant. They were mostly from among our own people - & we don't wish it to be a sectarian affair at all.

If it is pleasant tomorrow, our S.S. is to have a little pic nic <> here by our house - but I <> as it will not be a very favorable day. I wish you could come!

It seems so strange to think that you have never seen us housekeeping. We have got a comfortable house, nicely furnished with everything convenient and comfortable, and many things even more than that. Our location is the pleasantest in the pleasant village of Farmington. We have everything to be thankful for, and everything to make us happy. And I've learned to made good bread!! You don't appreciate that as you would if you had been living with us these three months past. Bread has been my one great trouble - I have wasted more flour, & patience, than you would believe, if you hadn't been here to see. But the last two times, my bread has been good. Poor Rowland has been a perfect martyr to bad bread, & he has borne it heroically, I assure you. I have been obliged to give him several doses of thoroughwort, to remove the effects of it, but the treatment has proved so successful, each time, that I have never yet been quite discouraged!

But as I told you, better things seem to be in store for us, in this line of our daily affairs. We have had company all the time. Sometimes half a dozen at a time. We have Anna <Fatrie> now, & she is the only one, at present. Your Mother has been up twice only. I hope she will come up soon, & your father with her, & make us a longer

visit.

Sarah Sargent & her little family are boarding, at present. I think they may board through the winter. Frank & Timmie are at Uncle Ensign's at Leeds making a visit.

I have had a letter from Lizzie (Howard) lately & have written here a very long one, in reply. I shall be glad to see her & the children, when they come.

Rowland has just come in, and I believe I will leave what little room there remains, for him, if he wishes it. Good night, with heaps of love to both my brothers & may God be very near you always.

Ella

[The following note was added at the bottom of the page by Rowland.]