
1678 6/2/1862

From: F.D. Sewall

To: Mrs O O Howard

OOH-1629

Richardson's Div
Fair Oaks VA

Source: Bowdoin

[140]

[Letterhead]

THE AMERICAN TELEGRAPH COMPANY
NORTH, SOUTH, EAST AND WEST.

Dated Richardsons [Div.], [Fair Oaks VA] June 2d 1862.
Rec'd Lewiston 2d 1862 via Ft Monroe
To Mrs O O Howard

The general is wounded.
Fear he will lose his arm
he will come home as soon as possible.
Do not come unless you hear again.
Charles slightly wounded in the leg.

F.D. Sewall

31 / Paid 557

1679 6/2/1862 *From:* Thos J. Parker Col. *To:* Gen'l [OO Howard]
64th N.Y.S.Vols.
OOH-1630 Head Quarters 64th
Source: Bowdoin Regt. N.Y.S.V.
Camp Victory at Fair
Oaks Station Va

[308]
Head Quarters 64th Regt. N.Y.S.V.
Camp Victory at Fair Oaks Station Va
June 2d 1862

Gen'l

I have the honor to report the position and part taken by my Regiment on the Battle Field in the engagement of yesterday June 1st 1862 near this place about 7 o'clock a.m. we were ordered to the front. On advancing through a thick woods on the south side of the Rail Road under a shower of balls from the enemy Genl O.O. Howard and his aid C. Howard were both severely wounded near our line. On arriving within about 50 yards of the enemys line we opened fire on them. They fought desperately, being soon reinforced and the battle raged about two hours. Both lines holding their position we then charged bayonet on them they falling back in disorder leaving their dead and wounded on the field. I then received orders to reform the line in rear of Genl Meaghers Brigade and took that position about this time. I was directed by Genl Richardson to take the command of the Brigade. After this I ordered the 64th to support Captain Pettits Battery under the command of Capt. R. Washburn as Leut Col. Bingham being severely wounded and Capt Washburn being the seignor officer.

The Regiment took position according to the aforesaid order in rear of Capt. Pettits Battery supporting the same – during the entire engagement the Officers and men displayed the most determined courage and bravery. Being in the hottest part of the contest opposed to vastly superior numbers, observing good order and obeying every command, numerous instances of distinguished bravery in Officers could be mentioned but where all done so nobly it is difficult to determine who done best. All acted bravely, nobly & honorably.

I am Sir verry respectfully
Your Obt. Servt.
(Signed) Thos J. Parker Col. 64 th
Regt. N.Y.S.Vols.

1680 6/2/1862

From: Edward E Cross
Col. 5th N.H. Vols
Head Quarters 5th
Regt N.H.Vols
Camp near Fair Oaks
Station

To: Captain [Unknown]

OOH-1631

Source: Bowdoin

[309]

Head Quarters 5th Regt N.H.Vols,
Camp near Fair Oaks Station
June 2d 1862

Captain

I have the honor to report the part taken by my Regt. in the battle of June 1st near this place.

On the evening of May 31st the 5th Regt. was posted as advance guard in front of the Brigade of Genl French. Being very near the enemy we took several prisoners, and soon after day-break an orderly bearing a dispatch from Gen. Pryor of the Confederate Army to Gen. Anderson was taken and sent to Head Quarters. Soon after this my regiment moved across the rail-road and took post in the edge of the wood. Here being fired upon by the enemys pickets, we had several men wounded. The fire was promptly returned, and the pickets retreated. We were then ordered back to a position in the first line of battle, but soon after, advanced into the woods again, where we took quite a number of prisoners. The battle had now gone on nearly an hour, when I received orders from Genl Richardson to move to the support of Gen French. While marching along the rail road, I received notice that Brig. Gen. Howard was severely wounded and the command of the first Brigade devolved upon me. Finding that the three other regiments of the Brigade had been some time in action, and severely handled, I directed that they should move out of the woods and reform in the rear of Meaghers Brigade while I advanced my Regt to occupy the ground. We moved forward in line of battle, through a thick woods and about three hundred R.R. track encountered the rebel line of battle and a fierce fire commenced on both sides. Since my line advanced in the most gallant style, and each time the enemy fell back. The fire was now very close and deadly, the opposing lines being several times not over thirty yards apart. When about ordering another Charge I was struck by a rifle ball in the thigh, and disabled. Leut. Col Langley then took command of the regiment and the rebels endeavoring to flank us he brought off the Regt in excellent style carrying most of our wounded.

I cannot speak to highly of the coolness, bravery, and good conduct of the Officers and men of my regt. in the face of a largely superior force, and under a fire seldom experienced by troops in battle. The loss of the Regt. in killed, wounded, and missing is about one hundred and eighty five men, and five officers wounded.

Yours very respectfully
(signed) Edward E Cross
Col. 5th N.H. Vols

1681 6/2/1862

From: T. J. Parker
Col. Comdg 64th
N.Y. Vols.

To: General [OO Howard]

OOH-1632

Source: Bowdoin

Hd. Qrs. 54th Regt.
N.Y.S.Vols.
Camp Victory, at Fair
Oaks Station Va

[310]

Hd. Qrs. 64th Regt. N.Y.S.Vols.
Camp Victory, at Fair Oaks Station Va
June 2d 1862

General

I have the honor to report the part taken by this Brigade on the battle Field in the engagement of June 1st 1862. After the command of the Brigade was turned over to me which was about 10 a.m. previous to that time having the com'd of the 64th N.Y. which was in the hottest of the battle two hours or more when I recd orders to reform in rear of Genl Meagher line of battle, soon after executing the order I was directed by Genl. Richardson to take command of the Brigade.

The force was disposed of as follows, the 5th N.H. Vols. under comd of Lt. Col. Langley (their Col. being severely wounded) held the R.R. on the left the 69th N.Y. the 81st Penn. under comd. Capt. Miles Genl. Howards Staff held a position on south side R.R. in the open field opposite the head of the enemys Collum on extreme left of the line, 61st N.Y.V. Under Comd of Col. Barlow on the line of the woods in the rear of the R.R. the 64th N.Y.V. under the comd of Capt. R. Washburn were ordered to support Pettits Battery & took possession of it accordingly. The Brigade fought with the greatest courage & bravery making two successful bayonet charges driving the enemy from the field in the utmost disorder, leaving their dead and wounded behind them.

Very Respectfully
Yr. Obedt. Svt
(Signed) T. J. Parker
Col. Comdg 64th N.Y. Vols.

1682 6/3/1862

From: Rowland [RB
Howard]

To: Dear Bro. Otis [OO
Howard]

OOH-1633

Auburn

Source: Bowdoin

[141]

Auburn June 3d [1862]

Dear Bro. Otis

I came down from home last night and am here with Lizzie waiting news from you. I will go on to meet you & Charles, if I can find out where you will be.

I would love to be with you, nurse you & pray with you. Our dispatches from Capt Sewall are all we have heard and we feel very thankful that God directed those balls just so far from any vital parts.

Lizzie fears that you will start too quick. She & Jamie are very well. Grace & Guy are at School. All well, but I haven't seen the latter two. I spent a few hours with mother this morn. She seems very calm. We had a delightful season of family prayer after Breakfast trying to commend you two to the throne of Grace.

Lizzie says she can go to you, if necessary, and I can go as well as not, and have almost a mind to start today, but Lizzie seems to think it would not be advisable to do so.

We have no news from Perry. I am at your disposal.

God bless & keep you both. Lizzie is surrounded by kind friends. Every one expresses great sympathy for her and feels affectionately towards you.

Yr. loving Bro.
Rowland

1683 6/3/1862

From: Otis [OO Howard]

To: Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1634a

Head Qrs. Str

Nellie Baker

Source: Bowdoin

White House Landing

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[June 3, 1862] [This date was added later, but it is what Charlie wrote in his note at the bottom.]

Head Qrs. Str

Nellie Baker

White House Landing

Dearest

I am on my way with only my left arm. Shall go to Fort Monroe today and probably to Baltimore tonight, but may be I shall wait for a str. going directly to N.Y. from Ft. Monroe to avoid changes. Charlie is very comfortable & so am I. God bless you & the children. Shall see you soon.

Affectionately yr husband

Otis

[The above letter was written by Otis using his left hand.]

[Charles wrote a note to Lizzie at the bottom of this note.]

1685 6/4/1862

From: E.H. Sewall

To: My Dear Mrs [Lizzie]
Howard

OOH-1635

[Bath]

Source: Bowdoin

[142]

Wednesday eve June 4th [1862]

My Dear Mrs Howard,

I cannot refrain from writing and yet I know not, what I can say in this trying time to comfort you.

Be assured I do sympathize with you and would that I could be near you to cheer you, but we have the promise that "God is our present help in time of trouble" and he I know will be your stay and support. I hope the sad news you have received of the Genl's wound may not be as they feared at first, but may the firm trust you have in your Maker stay your hand and heart.

How little did we realize when parting that our dear husbands were so near a battle. I have felt so gratified in and pleased with your call tho short, knowing that we should soon see more of each other, and I do feel very great interest in your dear husband, as he has been so kind, and so like a brother to Mr Sewall since his connection with him. You of course as well as myself passed a very anxious day Monday, I never knew so long a day and this state of suspense is fearful, almost worse than reality, I feel that I have great reason to be thankful for God's goodness in preserving my dear husband from danger, how unworthy I feel of all his many blessings to me. I have tried to leave all in the hands of God, but I have been rebellious, may God forgive me.

How are the dear children. I feel that I must come to you and strive to do what I could to comfort you. I have prayed that you might be enabled to bear up under this affliction and to say "thy will be done." I learned from Mr Whittmore today, that you was looking for Genl Howard home. I am very glad, that you can be with him, to nurse and cheer him in his hours of weariness and pain, that he may have to endure.

May God sustain and comfort you, and may you be spared many years to tread life's thorny path together is the sincere wish of your friend.

E.H. Sewall [Evelina Hill Sewall]

1687 6/5/1862

From: Sarah B. F. Greble

To: My dear Mrs [Lizzie]
Howard

OOH-1637

West Point

Source: Bowdoin

[144]

West Point June 5th 1862

My dear Mrs Howard -

I see by this morning-paper that which makes my heart ache for you, my poor friend. Can it be true. I had hoped that your noble brave Husband would pass unharmed through this our terrible war. Much as I want to write to you this morning still what can I say to you. Simply that I love you both so much that I cannot help sympathizing with you in your trouble as I would joy with you in your happiness. I do hope it is true that Mr Howard is with you 'twill be a comfort to you to have him to nurse <> cheer, and oh the assistance of having him to help you bring up the little ones. I sent his little God-daughter to him tis a poor substitute for her little bright self. Your friend Mrs William Merrick [Maria Otis] has been very kind about coming to see me this winter and I have learned to love her and through her I have often heard of you and my heart has been with you constantly but I cannot think of you as at any place but here & West Point. Seems strange without you. If my dear friend the papers have been in error do let us know we are all so anxious for you. Was your brother Charles wounded too? We saw that both had gone through New York to New England yesterday. I must not intrude upon your precious time longer, but with warm love from us all believe me sincerely your attached friend.

Sarah B. F. Greble

Kiss the little ones for me. Father, Mother & all desire their warmest love and sympathy sent to you.

1688 6/5/1862

From: Helen Sands

To: Dear Lizzie [Howard]

OOH-1638

Brunswick

Source: Bowdoin

[145]

Brunswick June 5th [1862]

Dear Lizzie -

I must write you a few lines to-night although they will necessarily be very few. You have been much in my thoughts since the sad tidings came to me that dear Mr Howard was wounded. I felt that I must go and see you but knew that was out of the question - now that I am teaching.

Cousin Ed wrote Alice that Mr. Howard would return home immediately which we were glad to learn - it will be such a comfort to you to be with him and take care of him.

When you have leisure I should like to have you write me how severely your dear husband is wounded.

Alice sends much love and wishes very, very much to see you. She is in a very interesting frame of mind - is very constant in her attendance at Mr. Hammond's meetings, talks freely with Christians and finds pleasure in so doing.

We both of us felt at the last meeting that we would stand with those who love the Saviour. I have given up striving for a certain amount of feeling and resolved to trust in Jesus - and take just the amount and kind of feeling which God in his wisdom sees fit to give me.

Alice wishes very much to talk with you and Mr. Howard on this subject.

The work here seems increasing in interest. Many of my pupils are seeking their Saviour, and several are rejoicing in hope. Will you pray dear Lizzie that I may have strength and wisdom from above to be faithful to these souls that are brought so directly under my influence.

I can write no words of comfort to you - for I know that you have the Comforter with you always.

You will be glad to hear that the Students are becoming more deeply interested in these meetings. Nothing like the present state of feeling ever existed in Brunswick before.

I must not write more now. We all send much love to you and the children.

May God bless you all is the prayer of your friend.

Helen Sands

1689 6/9/1862

From: Blanche Berard

To: My dear Mrs [Lizzie]
Howard

OOH-1639

West Point N.Y.

Source: Bowdoin

[146]

My dear Mrs Howard

We were truly grieved to see by the papers, that your husband has been wounded in the recent battle. Those same papers tell so many contradictory stories of the nature and seriousness of his wounds, that we hardly know what to believe, and are consequently very anxious about him. When you can, my dear friend, will you not send us, if only a line, to let us know the truth. May God support you both in this severe trial. What a blessedness to know that all things work together for good to those who love God, and to have the assurance that your husband is among that happy number for - "by their fruits ye shall know them."

Mamma, Euphilia, Emily, all send love and sympathy in your affliction.

I enclose a little notice from the N.Y. Express which you may not have seen.

Remember me very affectionately to Genl Howard and your children; with a kiss to my little god-child, and hoping for a line from you soon, I remain

Very truly and affectionately
Your friend
Blanche Berard

June 9th 1862
West Point N.Y.

1690 6/10/1862 *From:* C.H. Mulliken

To: Dear Friend Oliver [OO
Howard]

OOH-1640

Augusta

Source: Bowdoin

[147]

Augusta June 10th 1862

Dear Friend Oliver

With sincere regret did I learn of your being wounded and that you was obliged to return home at this trying time for our country when the services of all such men are needed. - but Oliver that you have home and kind friends to come to who can administer to your every want is a comfort and a blessing that many are deprived of who have fought & suffered in their country's cause. I have often thought of you during the past winter & Spring and wished much to hear from you but I knew your time was all occupied too much so to read friendly letters as well as to write them. Your loss is great Oliver very great, but I feel your courage & patience are greater than mine to bear such a loss heroically. I wish I could see you and talk with you but do not know even where to direct this letter. Still I think you will be at Leeds at your mothers and shall venture to send this there. I suppose Mrs Howard is with you although we have heard nothing from her directly or indirectly since she came from West Point. We supposed during the winter she would have been here for a visit at least and that we should have seen her.

Your brother Charles I see was severely wounded at the same battle you was, and that he was with you, and near you, also that you & he came home together. You both have my kindest sympathy in your afflictions and that God will spare your lives for greater services is my earnest wish. Are you in great pain? And how long do you anticipate being confined to the House? I trust we may see you at Augusta, and at our house at any time when you can spare time to ride as far. Mrs Mulliken desires a kind remembrance to you and much love to Mrs Howard and the children.

I little thought when I saw you in Boston that such scenes would transpire through out our land as have taken place West & South but how little we know of the future Oliver or of God's dealing with us. His ways are mysterious and beyond our comprehension.

With kind remembrance to your family.

I am very Truly
Your friend
C.H. Mulliken

1691 6/10/1862 *From:* Jeanie & Isa Grey *To:* Gen [OO] Howard

OOH-1641 Po'kepsie

Source: Bowdoin

[148]

Po'kepsie June 10th 1862

Gen Howard!

My dear brother in Christ!

How my heart bleeds to address you after reading the terrible news of your great sufferings, and those of our dear Charles! We have been down at our little cottage since the 15th of May & have had no papers so that we have not known what has transpired for a month, but last saturday a boy came to our door with the paper that contained your departure from New York! This was the first we have heard from you since your letter. I waited to hear more & Johnny Weir came & told us all the said tidings! I could only exclaim, "Why dearest Father-in-heaven! Why sever that right arm from the heart & head that ever kept it actively engaged in deeds of loving kindness?" I prayed fervently for you that your life & health, soul & body should be precious in His sight, who takes cognizance of those who live for the happiness of others!

My dear sister Howard! My soul yearns over her! Would to God we could come to you & comfort you as you comforted us! We have been thinking of writing to Mrs Howard daily for months, to tell her of all our perplexities & all the goodness of God to His poor dust! We have, nominally, a dear little cottage at Cozzens, not ours till much money, now in the Hands of our Heavenly Banker, is paid, but we can trust to Him, you know confidently, and do feel that if He takes it away, it will be all right. While we are in possession however, what could give us such unalloyed comfort as to receive you & yours and your dear brothers & Ella your sweet sister under our little roofree?

Tears streamed from our eyes as for brothers at the recital of your sufferings! I know how to close this letter, yet cannot express my deep sorrow & sympathy! We have waded through deep waters, but Jesus has stood by us, though the tempter of <[torn page]> assailed us & bid us despair of <God's> mercy, my poor little Jeanie has been quite a heroine, and nearly sacrificed health & life for me, & I have been a sad drag upon her energetic little soul & body.

Everybody feels the most intense interest in any news about you and I crave a line from any one to tell us that God is going to spare you a little longer to our dear little sister and your precious babies! Our best love & prayers to you & dear Charles & that God will restore you both to those who love you & make you blessings to the world again, good shepherds!

Our warmest love to dear sister Howard & Roland & Ella & the dear children.

Again & again God bless you & all

Your very grateful and affectionate friends
Jeanie & Isa Grey

1692 6/10/1862 *From:* A.S. Packard

To: Brig. General [OO]
Howard

OOH-1642

Bowdoin College

Source: Bowdoin

[149]

Bowdoin College
June 10, 1862

Brig. General Howard,
My dear Sir,

I am mortified that I should have sent the circular of the Historical Society, as I did, without an accompanying note of sympathy; but I let it go as a part of the general routine of that service. I have sent a similar one to a large number of the officers from Maine.

Your misfortune caused us a shock, though when we heard of the slaughter & desperation of that battle field we felt thankful to the Bountiful Preserver of us all, for his care of you. I trust you may soon recover your health & strength. I regret to learn from Gilmore of the severity of your brother's wound.

You will always have a reminder of your personal sacrifice for the defence & life of your country. I have suffered very much with shame, & indignation as well as with anxiety during all this strange scene of things in our land. But I have looked upon it from the first as a life-struggle – a contest for the life of the nation, which has been struck at by the most uncaused & iniquitous rebellion & treason which history records. The war has been thrust upon us, & my feeling has ever been, that we must carry it through to the end; & my confidence is that the God of our Father is accomplishing his own purposes regarding this people, so that he will not suffer this nation to be dashed in pieces like a potter's vessel.

We are enjoying a precious revival of God's work among us, & I hope you may be able, among your recreations, to come & witness for yourself what He is doing. I heard that Mrs. Howard was in town week before last after she had left, or I should have called upon her. Will you present me respectfully to her - & assure your brother of our regard & sympathy.

In the hope that you may be able soon to resume the duties of your command, I am with sincere respect & regard, faithfully your friend & servant,

A.S. Packard [Alpheus Spring Packard, Bowdoin Professor of Ancient Languages and Classical Literature]

1693 6/12/1862 *From:* Wm S. Gardner

To: My dear [OO] Howard

OOH-1643

Lowell

Source: Bowdoin

[151]

Lowell June 12th 1862

My dear Howard

I desire to tender you my sincere sympathy for the serious accident which befel you in the late battle before Richmond, and to express that pride and admiration for your heroic courage, which your friends every where feel.

In reading the account of your exposures on that fearful occasion, and of your Providential protection, it seems as though you must have been especially preserved for future usefulness to your country and mankind.

The loss of your arm and the pain suffered, can receive no adequate compensation, but yet in that honest pride which a just cause and a brave heart engenders, there is something to be considered, for you will bear through life the most gratifying memorial of your courage and your patriotism.

The class of /50 has after all been distinguished, and one of its members will have a page of history reserved for him.

Hoping that your wound will soon be healed and that you will resume your accustomed health.

I remain sincerely yours
Wm S. Gardner [Bowdoin Class of 1850]

1694 6/13/1862 *From:* J. F. Hammond

To: My Dear General [OO
Howard]

OOH-1644

Source: Bowdoin

Head-Quarters, 2d
Corps d'Armee
Medical Director's Office
Courtney House, Va

[152]

[Letterhead]

Head-Quarters, 2d Corps d'Armée
Medical Director's Office

Courtney House, Va 13th June 1862

My Dear General

Your certificates and applications were sent in, and have come up with Richardson's approval. In the confusion here the certificates were wayward, and Taylor requested me to have them copied. In that way I have come in possession of the copies I send you. Of the application I have no copy. Of course there is no doubt of the terms being granted. I wrote the certificate for your Brother from a dim recollection of his case. I have seen so many here that I have not been able to keep in my memory all the cases. I know well that he should not be here.

We are just as we were, nearly, when you left us. Advanced a little, and the main force of our Corps is to the N.W. Our Hd. Qrs. are where Sully's regt was during the fight. Smith is immediately on our right. There is no doubt of the determination of the rascals to make their best fight here. We can form no idea of their numbers. McClellan moved his Hd. Qrs. to Trent's House, yesterday. It is said that Franklin and Porter are gone to Mechanicsville; the reserve Artillery still where it was. Genl. McCall is at the White House, and we hear rumors of coming improvements. The last orders here indicate an intention to remain still for the present. Smith's Division has been ordered to withdraw out of reach of shells. They are shelling us more or less all the time. They commenced this morning with three iron pieces and one brass, $\frac{3}{4}$ mile distant, and for one hour they burst thickly about us. Since then we have one on an average every five minutes, or a (one burst this moment near me) little more.

Dr. Palmer is very well, and speaks of resigning as soon as we get to Richmond.

Kind regards to Mrs. Howard and the children, and to your Brother.

Yours Truly,

J. F. <Hammond [The ink had gotten wet and smeared and is now quite illegible. But it was probably John F. Hammond M.D., from South Carolina, who was on the medical staff at West Point in 1860. The handwriting is very similar to others from him, e.g. OOH-1208, 5/29/1861.]>

1695 6/13/1862

From: A. B. Farwell
Hiram Hayes
Washington D.C.

To: Brig Genl O.O. Howard

OOH-1645

Auburn
Maine

Source: Bowdoin

[153]

Washington D.C.
June 13th 1862

Dear General,

It is fitting and natural that the deeds of a brave, and true man, in a period like this, should meet instant, and heartfelt acknowledgment. It is left to other times to award historical justice. To actors of to day present consideration of their faithful services is most grateful. It is inspiration to him who receives it, and blessing to the giver.

Citizens of the same state with yourself, we are proud to witness that your signal gallantry, and courage in the recent great battlefield of the Republic at "Fair Oaks" has excited sincere admiration and eulogy. The thinned ranks of your command, attest no less the desperate character of the struggle, than the valor and constancy which sustained them, until Victory declared for the Right. A son of Maine on that occasion vindicated the emblem of his State as well in conduct, and direction, as in the prowess by which his native Pine was made to triumph among its kindred forests of the South. Happily does the device illustrate the qualities of our bretheren in the field, reliance, courage, firmness, faith. Your title to the first distinction for these virtues has been settled on the great days of the Country's trial, and sealed with your blood.

We sympathise deeply with you in your suffering, and indulge the hope, that an excellent constitution, with the tender cares of home, and the smiles of a kind Providence, may speedily restore you to health, and to new fields of military usefulness, and glory.

We are, Dear General,
Faithfully & Sincerely
A. B. Farwell
Hiram Hayes

Brig Genl. O.O. Howard
Auburn
Maine

1696 6/13/1862 *From:* Unknown

To: My dear General [OO
Howard]

OOH-1646

Source: Bowdoin

Adams House Hospital
Near
Fair Oaks Va.

[154]

Adams House Hospital Near
Fair Oaks Va. June 13th 1862

My dear General

I was greatly relieved & very much pleased on receiving a line from your brother last evening. Considering the long journey which you have made, the joltings & hittings which the arm must have had, and the excitement to which you have been exposed, I could not expect it would heal by first intention. Charles' case we know must suppurate.

I have no doubt you will both be well soon. We remain nearly as we were when you left us, have a little skirmishing and some shelling every day. We lose in this part of the army from five to ten men per day, killed & wounded. I am in charge of this Hospital, and this is the principal depot. We send them North as soon as they are operated upon, and dressed.

This morning the Rebels were shelling us rapidly, but we have not yet disclosed the position of our guns. But we can not stand it much longer I think the battle must open soon. Their shells reach quite to this house.

All who know you inquire anxiously about your welfare and all are <> in your praise.

I think Gen. French was not quite pleased with your report, but since the Irish & Sickles have taken so much credit, he has forgotten all about what you said. The hammer attributed your report to Capt. Sewall.

Gen. Caldwell you know I presume, has been assigned to your Brigade. I have made his acquaintance, am much pleased with him. He is in reality a gentleman & a scholar. But I need not tell you that your place in the estimation and affections of your staff, can never be filled.

Please accept our best regards & good wishes, and let us hear often how you are getting along. All are anxious to hear from Charles also, and send him much love.

Most truly yours
<J.S. [Torn Page]>

P.S. Cannonading is going on briskly I assure you. But we know but little of its true cause, whether the general battle is now to open I cannot tell. Gen. McClellan has taken the Trent House, in our rear for Head Quarters, has built a good road over the Chickahominy also the Grape river. Gen. Burnside has been up to see him.

1697 6/14/1862 *From:* P.B. Phillips

To: Gen [OO] Howard

OOH-1647

New Burgh

Source: Bowdoin

[155]

New Burgh June 14/61 [1862]

Gen Howard

Dear Cousin

We read with thrilling interest of the battle of Richmond, and were pained to see among the list of wounded the names of Gen Howard and brother, and have felt anxious ever since to know the extent of your injuries. When we saw by the papers that you had arrived at the Astor House in a feeble condition, and fearing you might not be able to be removed, to your home, we requested a friend in the City, to call and make inquiries concerning you, proposing, could you bear the removal to have you brought directly to our house, that you might be among sympathising friends and relatives and where cousin Lizzy could join you and feel at home. Our friend called immediately, but found you had left in a Fall River boat some hours before, in a critical situation, which left us still in a state of anxiety concerning you. We did not know how to direct to you, until we learned by to-day's paper, which gives your residence as Auburn, Maine.

Will it be too much to ask of Mrs Howard to write a few lines giving particulars of your wound and present condition, also your brother's?

Mr Banks family join with us in sympathy and kind regards for you and yours.

Commending you to the care of our Heavenly Father, who watched over you in the hour of battle, sparing your life and who is able to comfort you in all your tribulation, believe us

Your truly Sympathising and
Affectionate friends and
Cousins
Phillips & Williams

N.B. By last accounts from Gen. Williams dated May 22 he was three miles below Vicksburg. All well.

If you write please direct to P.B. Phillips [Pamela B. Phillips]

1698 6/17/1862 *From:* Geo. W. Balloch *To:* Dear [OO] General

OOH-1648 Fair Oaks Va

Source: Bowdoin

[156]

Fair Oaks Va
June 17, 1862

Dear General

Your kind favor was duly received today, and when I say, that I was glad to hear from you the expression will convey only a faint idea of the feeling. I wish you could have seen the bevy of anxious ones at Head Quarters, when it was known that you had written to me, all eager to hear from the absent ones.

I suppose ere this that you have heard who has been assigned to us. His name is John C. Caldwell formerly Colonel of the Maine 11th. I cannot speak of him yet as a military man, but he is most certainly a finished gentleman and scholar. He retains your old staff (which is proof beyond question of his good sense). The position of the troops is about the same as when you left. Field works are being erected in front of our position. "Little Mac" rode around among us the other day, wearing a straw hat & smoking a cigar. By his side rode the veteran Sumner. Father Inuel [Note], Gen Heintzleman & others were also in his wake. After this I suppose that the man who dares discard straw hats, will be liable to be court-martialed.

The pleasant face of Mr Alvord is once more in our midst, and his hands are busy as ever in the good work. Dr. Palmer is still engrossed with the cares, to say of the dignity of his position, is very sorry that he did not go home when you went for they wont let him go now. The valiant 64th Regt has left our family, and has finally brought up in French's Brigade, after stopping two days in Meaghers. In its place we have the 7th N.Y. (German) 800 strong, composed of men who have many of them, seen service in the Crimea.

Sickness prevails to a large extent among the officers and men of the 5th N.H. The 81st & 61st remain pretty much the same. The Rebels drove in our Pickets on the afternoon of the 15, and killed the gallant Capt. Sherlock of the 81st. In regard to the staff, but little needs be said.

Miles the "Superb" sports a new hat, with a solid gold band & tassel, rides Excelsior with as much grace as ever, and also exercises his lungs on the boy "Prentis". He appropriated the Adjutant Generalship to himself on the ground that he ranked Lt. Scott, and Capt Miles is now "A. No. 1." in all respects.

Scott, the gallant Lieutenant sports a bran new Regulation Cap, just from N.Y. the visor making an angle of forty five degrees with the front line of his face. He posts the pickets and does the labor.

Capt. Barker keeps up his former reputation of never drinking unless asked, keeps his teams all harnessed from "Early dawn to dewy eve" all ready at the first approach of danger to take distance to the rear. Your poor old commissary, still wears his Lieutenants straps (when he wears any) with as much dignity as he can command. Following the prevailing tendency he concluded to spruce up a little, and discarded his old fore and aft N.H. Cap and in its stead wears a jaunty hat "a la Miles" with one side slightly turned up signifying that he always keeps one eye open to business. The Brigade is still well fed as usual, and I might add, well whiskied too, for liquid fire is now furnished freely to all the patriots.

You were very kind to mention me in your Report. My only wish always was to do my duty in a manner to meet your approbation, and if I succeeded I am content. Perhaps the corps of orderlies should be mentioned or at least the "Boys". James the "Sable song of the evening" is as cunning as ever. He has of late "reinforced his pants" in a manner quite peculiar to his own taste, having in mind utility more than beauty. Prentiss is the biggest toad in the puddle and he is very chary of Capt Miles honors. Capt Sewall turned the "Corporal" over to me, and I am trying to keep him all right until the Capt. returns which will be soon I suppose as I learn that his resignation is not accepted.

Your horse Charlie is a nimble as ever & just as full of play. He is nearly well. I told Capt Barker of your wish & he will attend to him.

It is very quiet all along the lines. The report tonight is that Burnside has taken Fort Darling. The enemy drive in our pickets occasionally & now and then send us over a shell by way of a morning salutation. Capt Hazzard is well and as full of fun as ever. He does not come to see us as he used to. It has been very rainy most of the time since you left, and the nights are quite cold.

We were all pleased to hear that your arm is doing so well, and if good wishes are of any avail you will soon be well. All the old friends as well as myself desire to be remembered to Charles. May his recovery also be speedy. I am afraid you will think this letter rather a "running fire" but I think I have hit almost everything if I have not made any effective shots. Write again as soon as you feel able, but do not be too smart so as to meet with a drawback. I cannot close this letter without again expressing the fondest wish of my that, "that we may all be together once more," but be that as it may, may the choicest blessings of Heaven rest on you & yours.

Yours sincerely
Geo. W. Balloch

[Note: "Father Inuel" may be a reference to McClellan's father-in-law, General Randolph B. Marcy who was now on his staff.]

1699 6/18/1862 *From:* William H. Merrick

To: My dear Otis [OO
Howard]

OOH-1649

Phila

Source: Bowdoin

[157]

Phila June 18/62

My dear Otis

I was greatly surprised and much gratified at the receipt of your kind note, which is doubly valuable from the circumstances under which it was written.

Your progress in left hand writing must be very rapid unless you have before practiced at it.

I have no doubt you knew best as to what was good for you, but I am still very sorry I did not see you on your way through Philada. We were very glad to hear that Miss Pearson was able to render you some assistance on your passage from Phila. to New York.

We are all anxiously expecting news from McClellan as you may readily imagine and I am very sorry he is deprived of the assistance of such a good officer as Gen Howard has proved himself to be.

The sick & wounded soldiers brought here from the various camps, and they come to us in very large quantities gives us plenty of field for benevolent exertions - our hospitals are all as full as they can hold, and are as a general thing well supplied with everything that can contribute to the comfort both bodily & spiritual of the poor fellows.

We here sad stories of the neglect from which the men suffer after every battle. Can it be that there are not enough supplies and enough help with all the immense resources at the command of the Government to relieve the wounded men in a reasonable time after they are injured - or is it a necessary evil which cannot by any means be obviated. As a civilian I do not think it right for such severe criticism to be passed by civilians on the actions of our War Dept & Generals and always feel disposed to defend the powers that be, but we do here some terrible stories of the neglect of our men.

We all pray that the horrible business may soon be over, and our country restored to its happy condition.

We are so anxious to hear how you are progressing that although I do not want you to weary yourself with writing, I hope Lizzie may find time to drop us a line just to say whether you are better or worse than when you reached home. With our best love to all including Charlie & prayers that you may soon be restored.

I am yrs affecty

W.H.M. [William H. Merrick, husband of Otis' cousin Maria Otis.]

1700 6/20/1862 *From:* F.D. Sewall

To: Dear Genl [OO Howard]

OOH-1650

Bath

Source: Bowdoin

[158]

Bath June 20 1862

Dear Genl,

Last evening I rec'd the following telegram "Resignation disapproved, extension of leave not granted. You are ordered to return to the Brigade. Signed Geo. W. Scott. A.D.G." I was somewhat surprised and a good deal disappointed, but I obey orders promptly and try to do it cheerfully. May I have grace from on high. I leave this noon for the front, and shall hurry on as rapidly as possible. I shall endeavour to get my resignation accepted at once, and I wish dear Genl, that you would send me by mail as early as possible a paper recommending my discharge.

Mr. Gilbert my partner is about retiring from the Office and it is actually necessary that I should return to my business. If I remain in service I must sacrifice my private business, which I am not able to do. Then I would not have accepted the position indeed with any other one than yourself. I must be discharged, or relieved for the present at least.

Please send me such a communication as you think proper, address at our Hd. Qrs. I regret that I can not see you before I go, also Chas. May God bless both of you and "heal your diseases".

I wanted to settle our account before I left, but my partner is away, and I have but little funds in my hands. I intended to have sent the amount to you the first of the week. I will remit it as soon as I draw my pay. Excuse me for the delay in this matter.

I shall write you as soon as I reach Hd. Qrs. I can not bear to think of going there without you, how changed it will be.

Mrs. S. is feeling quite unreconciled to it. I trust all my dear ones to the care of Him who has been so good to me. Will you my dear Christian brother pray for me. You know how much I need aid from God to keep me in the path of duty.

Tell Chas. that I shall write him very soon. Give my regards to Mrs. Howard & the children.

God bless all of you.

Very truly yrs
F.D. Sewall

1701 6/20/1862 *From:* Sarah B. F. Greble

To: my dear Friend [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1651

West Point

Source: Bowdoin

[159]

West Point June 20th 1862

Many thanks, my dear Friend, for writing and relieving our minds about your brave husband and brother Charlie. We were most anxious about them. I felt I had done almost wrong to have intruded upon your time, and that I ought not to have asked you to write, for your every moment must be needed. Our love for you all must be my only excuse. We are all thankful to know that dear Mr Howard is with you, and although my sweet friend you write sadly I see you feel rightly - that our kind Heavenly Father may spare your precious husband to you and your little ones is my prayer.

I will see that your friends here shall hear all I know of him. I took the Liberty of sending your letter to Mama Greble an hour or two after its reception. She has written so anxiously about Mr H and has been twice to Mrs Merrick's door to find out something definite of him. I hope when Mr Howard is better and in fact all through his life he will never be as near us without coming to see us. Mama and Papa Greble were much disappointed that they did not see him in Phil'a and Father would have gone down to N.Y. had he known he was there in time.

I must not trespass longer upon your time. Kiss dear little manly Guy and Grace and baby Jamie for me, and with warm love to you my friend & every wish for your happiness & sympathy in all your trials. Believe me ever

Lovingly your friend
Sarah B. F. Greble

I don't write for an answer but only to tell you how we all think of you, but whenever in months to come you feel you have an hour to spare, spend it in writing to me for I shall always be truly glad to hear from you. Poor little Mamie is sick with dysentery, all the rest of us are all. John has been ordered to Milwaukie. It takes him far away, but such is army life.

1702 6/21/1862 *From:* Saloman A Nelk

To: Genl OO Howard

OOH-1652

Augusta

Source: Bowdoin

160]

Augusta June 21/62

Gen'l OO Howard

Dear Sir

I take the plasure of writing to you to let you know how I am getting a long when I saw you last I told you that I bought the Farm of Joseph Shandler, which I did, but still when we was going to <do harvesting> he ask me \$50 more then I agreed to he ask for the sect on the farm \$50 and all he dit but in was \$14,65 my Folks told me that I should not by at that Price. So I have not bought it yet but still I think I shall by a Farm not far from this one it is Cheeper, and better land, it is on Stiltzfants Hill, a bout a mile from the former Farm. So Genl if you cam to see me pleas call at Stiltzfants Hill and you will find me ther I am at present at Augusta and shall go Home next week. The Hundert Dollars you let me have I keep as good as I can and I shall spent it so it will pay me good intrest. Pleas give my best respects to your dear Wife and to your Brother Charles.

I remain Yours most
Truly and Obident Servant
Saloman A Nelk

1703 6/23/1862 *From:* C. H. Strickland *To:* Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-1654a Richmond Ind. [Leeds]

Source: Bowdoin

[161]

Richmond Ind.
June 23 1862

Gen. O.O. Howard
Dr Sir

We recvd on Saturday last, from some of our Eastern friends, a Lewiston paper containing an acct of your arrival home, also of your wound & the loss of your arm. This is the first we have heard of you directly, with the exception of some correspondence in the New York papers speaking of you. We have written you directed Washington but presume you have not recvd our letters. We saw Gen. H. spoken of, by a N. Hampshire officer, as the "lamented & heroic" Howard, & from that, feared you were killed. Accept our hearty congratulations, that your loss is no more, had it been a leg or two, or your life, we should indeed have mourned, as it is we feel that you have made your contribution to our common country, in your blood, & it will yet rise up & call you blessed.

I feel much depressed in looking over the whole field & feel that we are not doing ourselves the credit we ought, & our energies are not well directed, especially by a few, such as McClellan, McDowell & Halleck & in fact, that we shall never succeed in this matter, until the people & the Government come up to the mark, & are willing to strike at the root of the whole matter. The freedom of the slave is involved in this contest, & a just God will not permit this contest to close until his freedom is wrought out in some way. I remember your sturdy ideas of freedom & independence as they once existed, & if I mistake not, you suffered personally from the overbearing pride produced by the System of Slavery. Shall it be again visited upon us as a nation? Before this war is closed the whole North will come up to the standard, & the evil will be swept away.

We sympathize with you & Lieut. Charles, your brother, & heartily wish we could do something for you, as an evidence of that sympathy. If after a little rest & you have recruited your strength a little, you & your brother would take a trip & come here & visit us, we should be much pleased. Our country now is beautiful, & I would go with round the country, to Chicago, Indianapolis & St Louis, if you wished, can you not come?

Martha has written your mother, & it goes in the same mail as this. She must be much pleased to have her two sons back again with her. Shall you leave the Army now? Or will you continue until the end shall come?

I see Maine has suffered, shed some of her best blood. In this state we have sent 15,000 men & we are now completing five (5) new regiments. The West is in earnest in the matter, & I hope no rivalry or bad feeling may ever exist between the East & the West, as united they are self sustaining & divided, there would be no further peace on this continent.

We are pleasantly situated here & could make your visit very pleasant, if Mrs. Howard could come with you it would give us much pleasure. I hope you will think of this matter seriously, & if there is nothing to prevent, we hope you will come.

My former Partner Mr Bridgton was appointed Colonel of a Cavalry Regiment, but on acct of his health, had to resign & is now travelling in Europe.

Present our best regards to Mrs. Howard & to all our friends & for yourself & your brother Charles accept our earnest sympathies for your sufferings, & our best wishes for your future welfare & happiness.

Truly yours
C. H. Strickland

I shall be very glad to hear from you & Charles, please write as soon as you are able. C.H.S.

[Written at the bottom of this note from their uncle Charles Strickland is a letter from Charles to Otis written from

Leeds June 29, 1862.]

1704 6/26/1862

From: Geo. W. Balloch
1st Lt. ACS

To: Dear General [OO
Howard]

OOH-1653

Howard's Brigade
Fair Oaks Va

Source: Bowdoin

[163]

Fair Oaks Va
June 26, 1862

Dear General,

I write you now strictly on business not a bit of fun this time. I am trying to make up "our mess" account for May, and I wish you would let me know if either you or Charles paid out any thing during that month for the benefit of that institution, and as soon as I get the payment together I will consolidate them.

We have been expecting to see Capt Sewall for a day or two, but he has not arrived as yet. Dr Palmer is as well as usual. He recd your letter yesterday. He is evidently much annoyed at the fate of Brigade Surgeons as laid down by the new Bill. It suspends his functions as general overseer of the health of the Brigade, and Cardinal Wolsey never felt his fall from power more keenly. Ergo, if I err not we shall soon have one Surgeon less, and Maine one citizen more. Capt Barker has been quite unwell, but is better again. Scott and Miles are well. My own health and spirits are excellent. Things remain "in status quo" or nearly so.

Hooker advanced his column yesterday something like half a mile, and the consequence was, there was a pretty sharp fight. Gen McClellan visits us often. Gen Sumner and Father Dick are well. Mrs. Dick and the Baby are also here. Heard from Col Cross yesterday & he is able to walk a little. Col Barlow is as rough as ever, and is now at loggerheads with Capt Demming. Cols Johnson, Connor, and "Major Harry" of the 81st are well. Col Langley is about the only officer left fit for duty in the 5th. Cpts. Davis, Pierce, Burton, Perry and Murray also the Adjut are all sick. Perry dangerously. Capt Long has just returned well. Capt Rice has been back a few days, and is down again. Col. Cross is doing all he can to get me ordered back again.

The weather is very hot indeed with cool nights. Maj Marston is about and our vision has been gladdened with a little more of Uncle Samuels Money, for which we hope to have given him a fair equivalent in the shape of valuable services rendered. I furnished "my corporal" with materials to write you a letter yesterday and I suppose he will give you all the minor details of news. We were all glad to hear you were getting along so well. Capt. Thomas Wilson (our Commissary at this Post) sends his regards. Have just had a letter from home wife & babies all well.

Give my regards to Charles. I suppose John Tortish is in closer now. He will no doubt be quite a hero in his sphere.

Truly yours
Geo. W. Balloch
1st Lt. ACS
Howard's Brigade