
1939 7/2/1863

From: John Moeser
Sexton

To: Gen. [OO] Howard

OOH-1889

Cemetry Grounds,
Gettysville Pa

Cmdg 11th Army Corps
U.S.A

Source: Bowdoin

[331]

Cemetry Grounds, Gettysville Pa
July 2, 1863

To
Gen. Howard
Cmdg 11th Army Corps
U.S.A.

Sir!

The Subscriber, the sexton of this cemetry most Resectfully requests You to secure him, who is only a poor man, from the loss of his property by the arrogation of this Cemetry Grounds and the destruction of my private property by Your Army.

The following property has either been destroyed or has been used by Your and other troops of the U.S. or Vol. Army, to wit:

5000 lb of hay
\$25.00 worth of gras
25 bushel of potatoes
\$15.00 worth of sundry greens
one good milch cow.

I remain

Yours most Respectfully
John Moeser
Sexton

1940 7/3/1863

From: Joseph Hooker
Maj. Genl.
Washington

To: Maj Gen [OO] Howard

OOH-1890

Source: Bowdoin

[380]

Washington
July 3d 1863

Maj Gen Howard
Dear General:

Soon after the battle of Chancellorville Maj Gen Meade furnished me with a copy of a letter he had addressed Genl Sickles and yourself on the subject of a difference of opinion between Genl Meade and myself growing out of our council of Corps Commanders at Chancellorville. I have received Genl Sickles reply & if you have no objection will be greatly obliged to be furnished with a copy of your own.

I am rejoiced that yourself and command acquired so much fame at Gettysburgh. It must be a great satisfaction to you especially.

Report has it that I am to have another command but when or where I have not the slightest idea. I presume that I shall know on Saturday next. Hope that you are well.

Very truly yrs
Joseph Hooker
Maj. Genl.

1941 7/5/1863

From: Otis [OO Howard]

To: Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1891

Gettysburg Pa.

Source: Bowdoin

[381]

Gettysburg Pa.

July 5, 1863

Dearest,

We are thru another terrible conflict of 3 days. The enemy has been baffled & is gone. God grant us a complete victory. Chas & I are well. Love to the children & the blessing of our Father be yours.

Lovingly

Otis

1942 7/6/1863

From: Otis [OO Howard]

To: Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1892

Source: Bowdoin

Head Quarters 11th
Corps
Middle Creek 5 miles
from
Emmitsburg Pa

[382]

Head Quarters 11th Corps
Middle Creek 5 miles from
Emmitsburg Pa
9:20 a.m. July 6th /63

Dearest,

We commenced a movement last night towards the enemy but have been halted here. Poor Perry Lee is very sadly wounded. He has lost his arm & I fear will lose his life. Rowland says he is very weak & cries considerably. I made a reconaissance yesterday in person with some 15 or 20 Cavalry. We saw some men ahead that looked like stragglers. A dash was made by the cavalry led by Charley, Capt. Griffith & other officers. Poor Griffith was very badly wounded by a sudden fire from the woods & thickets. Also two or three of the men. We all love Griffith very much. He is a pure minded noble man, has a wife in Phila. The ball went quite thru him. He is at a Dr Taylors in Gettysburg and is comfortable. I talked with him, got strong expressions of his faith in God thru Christ, read & prayed with him before leaving. I told him it, his wound, was a punishment to me & not to him.

Give much love to the children. Charles is well, but we are all pretty well tired out. I long for rest.

Lovingly your husband
Otis

1943 7/9/1863

From: Otis [OO Howard]

To: Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1893

Head Quarters 11th
Corps

Source: Bowdoin

Near Boonsboro, Md

[383]

Head Quarters 11th Corps
July 9, 1863
Near Boonsboro, Md

Dearest,

I am quite well, but nowadays am apt to feel very tired at times. It is about the same with Charlie. We are near the enemy. Lee has not yet crossed the river & we must have one more trial. God grant us success in this next battle. He has preserved me so many times, I begin to feel as though he might do so to the end.

Give much love & papa's prayers to the little flock. Good night darling.

Lovingly
Otis

1944 7/9/1863

From: C.H. Howard

To: My dear Major [Eliphalet Whittlesey]

OOH-1894

Hd. qrs 11th Corps
Boonesboro Gap, Md.

Source: Bowdoin

[381]

Hd. qrs 11th Corps
Boonesboro Gap, Md.
July 9, 1863

My dear Major (to Major E. Whittlesey then in Brunswick Me. H.S.H.) [This parenthetical remark was written by Otis' son Harry Stinson Howard.]

I received your letter while we were at Gettysburg and feel grateful for it. You know very well how difficult it is to write upon an active Campaign and I have never written so few letters as since we reached Md. and Penna. In fact we never drove business quite so hard before. Day before yesterday we marched about 30 miles. Our Corps is in advance of all. Schurtz Divn. went forward beyond Boonesboro last night to support Buford's Cavalry, which had been fighting all day. The other two Divns took up position on the sides (West) of the mountain to hold the Gap at all hazards until the other Corps get up.

The 1st has come forward and occupied the right of the road but has now advanced to the town. Schurtz acts now as an advance guard & is instructed to fall back if attacked in any great force.

The papers have from you pretty full accounts of the battle of Gettysburg. The 1st & 11th Corps fought 3 days. The others 2 (Thurs & Friday). On Sunday morning we were riding out to reconnoiter with the Genl & body guard – the enemy having left the town & immediate vicinity. We saw some Rebel Pickets about a mile out when we got within ¼ mile. The Genl waited while the rest rode forward. We found a lot of stragglers & c in a house about 20 rods from the Pickets whom we captured & then dashed forward before the Pickets. I had cautioned Capt Shona to send 3 or 4 men up to find out what force was there & he did; but the whole guard went galloping in so close that it did no good and suddenly a company of concealed Rebels opened fire from a woods upon us. Griffith was badly wounded through the body near the hip. This occurrence saddened us all very much because it seemed so uncalled for. We left him at G.

Rowland had been with us, or near in the hospitals during the battle & he will probably be with Griffith till his wife comes.

We had a very strong position at G. selected by the Gen. (Howard), [written by H.S.H.] the first day & occupied by his Reserves.

He would not have gone forward beyond the town on Weds. had not Reynolds (who was in command of both Corps) already commenced the fight & sent back for help. As it was, both Corps were out flanked & the Genl sent orders for them to withdraw in good order to the position accompanied by his reserve.

He had hoped that Slocum would come up to assist in the retreat as he was but 2 miles away but he was too willing to demonstrate the fitness of his name Slow come. In fact refused to come up in person saying he would not assume the responsibility of that day's fighting & of those two corps. His Divns were finally sent up but too late & the 11th & 1st Corps suffered most terribly in their retreat – losing many prisoners – more than had been previously taken from the enemy which was considerable.

Barlow was badly wounded & left in town. It seems they did not find him, however, & he escaped without parole - I hear they left. (Mrs. B. is now with him, tho' she could not get into town for two days.) [The previous parenthetical sentence was written by H.S.H.] I cannot begin to give you an acct. of the fighting. We never have had so complete a battle – reinforcing one and another part of the line when attacked in overwhelming force. We held it most determinedly. The 11th Corps did better than ever before – though Barlow's Divn did not fight very well the first day. The Genl (Howard) & staff were in the hottest artillery fire I ever saw and remained in the same place night & day as long as the Rebels remained except that when they made an assault upon our front the Genl went up to the front (some 2 or 3 rods) & stood between the guns of Dieger's battery while they

poured the grape and canister into them. All that time we were subjected to a concentrated fire from 3 directions and a hundred guns were opened upon us. We saw there the sublimity of battle. The enemy's guns gave way and they went scattering back as Humphrey did at Fredericksburg (you will remember). The losses are immense. Maj. Lee had his arm shot off & amputated afterwards at the shoulder – his survival is doubtful.

The army is in excellent spirits though terribly exhausted by marches & without shoes & supplies - but during last night we got shoes by superhuman exertion from Frederic also three days rations – after one days fast. We will fight them again tomorrow or perhaps this P.M. Genl Howard seems to have the fullest confidence of Gen. Meade and has had the command of two Corps 11th & 5th (a good Corps you know). The 6th Corps has just marched past to the front. The 6th was less engaged & suffered less than any other at Gettysburg.

Please give my kindest regards to Mrs. Whittlesey & if Gilmore is at B. please allow him to read this. I was struck by a piece of shell but not hurt – only had my clothes torn & made my back tingle a little. Capt Hall was considerably hurt by a shell but is on duty. All would be glad to see you back again, especially I & the Genl.

Truly yrs
C.H. Howard

P.S. The boys were delighted to hear from Tom. Walter read the letter to them. Charlie is a very good boy & useful. "Wash" is worth his weight in gold to Capt Stinson & me.

[Note. This letter had also been typed, presumably by Harry Stinson Howard.]

1945 7/14/1863 *From:* Ella [Patten Howard] *To:* My dear Lizzie [Howard]

OOH-1895 Farmington

Source: Bowdoin

[385]

Farmington July 14th 1863

My dear Lizzie

I was very glad indeed to hear from you again. I wish I could see you, which would be far better. Rowland has not yet come home & I dont know when he will come. Though I shall look for him now every day, a little. I think he will go to Augusta if he can. But he has been away so much longer than he anticipated, that I suppose he'll feel as if he must hurry home as soon as possible. I hope he can go to Augusta.

It would be so pleasant to see some one right from Otis. He was with Perry when he wrote last. Perry has lost an arm, close up to the shoulder. I dont know which one. Rowland said he was very much prostrated by it. The shock to his system was very great – his wife had gone on. Dr. Alexander from here, is wounded in the hip, & is coming home with Rowland I believe. I shall be very glad indeed to have Guy come up & make us a visit. We shall be going to Commencement in about a fortnight, & possibly (if Rowland returns in season) to Bangor, the week before, though the Bangor project is very uncertain.

Hattie & Horace are here now, but that need make no difference about Guy's coming. I shall be glad to see him now, or after we return from Commencement, just as is most convenient for you. If you come, to Leeds, why cant you come up here? I should be so glad to have you. I do want to see that baby so much. Abby says Jamie is splendid. Dadie talks a good deal – has learned a great deal since his father went away.

I have a new girl, a little one, only sixteen, & small at that, but I like her very much. She is very neat, quiet, & modest, and I get along nicely with her. Dellie writes me that Mother Gilmore is lame, but says nothing more about it. He is at home now. Mamma wished me to say to you that she would be very happy to have you come to her house at Commencement time, without any ceremony, & the baby shall be taken care of whenever you can leave it. She is very much engaged now with Lizzie's matters, who expects to be married in August or Sept. I cant realize it at all.

I must bid you good night, as it is getting late. Dont know as you can read this scrawl I have written so hastily.

Love to yourself & the children.

Your sister
Ella

1946 7/14/1863 *From:* Otis [OO Howard] *To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1896 Headquarters Eleventh
 Corps
Source: Bowdoin Funkstown Md.

[386]

Headquarters Eleventh Corps,
July 14 1863
Funkstown Md.

Dearest,

The enemy have got away from us again, & gone back, having left a strongly fortified position. We do not know yet whether they, the confederates, have crossed.

Charlie & I are pretty well, though much worn & fatigued. Senator Wilson & V. President Hamlin have visited us while here. When we get the rebels fairly across the river I presume everybody will breathe more freely particularly in this section of country.

I am anxious to hear from home. I haven't got a letter for some time. Every day I pray for you all separately & trust it may be the will of God to bring us all together soon in health & safety. How are you now darling. The baby is growing, growing & papa has'nt seen him yet – over 3 months old. What is his name? I want to drop in upon you & I mean to before long. With much love.

I dont hear from Perry or Rowland. Oscar Turner married Bell Brewster & took her home with him after his time was out. I saw Oscar & Emerson Whitman on my way up before the battle.

Is it vacation with Guy yet? Quite a long walk over the bridge.

Capt. H.S. Stinson, good, true & faithful & brave as ever – just reported that he had been in the enemy's evacuated works.

I am very anxious to hear from you, & am hoping you have been having a quiet trust during these last few trying days.

Pray for me my precious wife that I may be supported by Grace in these times Do you hear from Mother.

Lovingly
Otis

1947 7/17/1863 *From:* Rowland [RB
Howard]

To: Dear Sister Lizzie
[Howard]

OOH-1897

Bath

Source: Bowdoin

[387]

Bath July 17, 1863

Dear Sister Lizzie

I am so far on my way home & were it not for preaching tomorrow, I would go into Augusta. I have not seen Otis & Charles since a week ago last Sabbath. You have doubtless heard from them a no. of times since. Gen. Meade has great confidence in Otis & no officers stand better with the Army today, so Charles says.

I left Perry with his wife last Monday. He was hardly out of danger. I attended Capt Griffiths funeral on Wednesday. I could speak with confidence of his Christian character & hope. He died triumphantly. Maria is no better, and is now at Beverly N.J. - a watering place. She buried her babe last Tuesday. I could get no trace of Capt Keenes body.

Abby sends her love. Mrs Patten sends her love and says she will be happy to have you come here Commencement time & bring the baby. Lizzie Patten sends her love too. Ella has a house full of company I hear. Abby says - "tell Jamie not to forget me."

Give Guy much love from Uncle Rowland and Grace & Jamie & Chancey. Tell Guy I want to see him & tell him about the battle & his father.

In great haste,

Your aff. Brother
Rowland

1948 7/18/1863

From: Otis [OO Howard]

To: Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1898

Headquarters Eleventh
Corps
Near Berlin

Source: Bowdoin

[388]

Headquarters Eleventh Corps
July 18 1863
Near Berlin

Dearest,

After I wrote you at Funkstown, we marched to Williamsport. The next day we took back tracks & marched to Middletown again 24 miles, and thence the next day to this place. The bridges are now down & we go on across towards the Rappahannock. We all are rather tired. The poor soldiers begin to complain of long marches.

The riots in N. York are dreadful, but are what copperheads & unconditional peace men will naturally bring upon us.

I was made happy by a letter from you with the sweet face & sweet smile of our charming little boy Jamie.

I read a short account of the serenade & of Blaine's speech in the Journal. I will enclose it as you request. At Gettysburg I am awarded much credit, & fear that the excess of praise, much of it unmerited will excite the unkind criticisms of some of my brother officers.

Chas. Is well, poor dear Capt Griffith is in the better world. Perry is I hear doing well. Rowland has just left for home. John Keen of Leeds was killed.

Much love to Guy, Grace & Jamie, & twenty kisses to the baby.

May God bless you all. My kindest regards to all my friends. I see Gen. S. Williams often. Remember me kindly to Mr Daniel & Mrs Williams. Harry S is well.

Gen Gordon now cmds the 1st Divn. I have quite large reinforcements again.

With much to yourself darling.

Your husband
Otis

1949 7/20/1863 *From:* I. Washburn Jr.

To: Maj. Genl. O.O. Howard

OOH-1899

Orono

Source: Bowdoin

[338]

Orono July 20, 1863

Dear General,

Thank God for what you have done & are doing for your country & the human race! I have rejoiced in your triumphs all along & now that your consummate generalship at Gettysburg, & your noble position in the matter of the pursuit of Lee, are known & legible to the country, every loyal & honest man in Maine, is my associate in admiring & honoring you.

Excuse me, General, but my heart would not permit me to withhold these words, & urges me to tell you how truly I am

Yours, always,
I. Washburn Jr.

Maj. Genl. O.O. Howard

1950 7/22/1863

From: Otis [OO Howard]

To: Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1900

Headquarters Eleventh
Corps,
Mountsville Va

Source: Bowdoin

[389]

Headquarters Eleventh Corps,
July 22nd 1863
Mountsville Va

Dearest,

We have got back into Virginia again as you see, have halted here. I presume it is because Lee does not move. There is now a high mountain and a deep river between the two armies. I sent you from Berlin a letter containing two hundred dollars.

I have little Jamie's picture encased with the rest. How finely you got that executed.

The people in this part of the country are secession strong but present much of the old style Virginia family – disposed to be open-hearted and hospitable. In time of peace this valley of Loudon County would be a beautiful place to visit. There is a beautiful young lady here at Mr Mounts – a grand-daughter, a native of Penn. but a strong little rebel. I should'nt wonder if she converted Charles & Harry S. The ice has thawed very much since we came thanks to kindly treatment & a good band. The soldiers are much inclined to retaliate the losses of Pennsylvania upon the people here.

How is Guy this morning. He must have a vacation now. Does Gracie's occur at the same time.

I notice C.H. Mulliken & Blaine are drafted. With they enter cavalry or infantry? I hope everybody will not pay his 300 dolls. & not come.

Chas & I are quite well now, we are getting a nice rest. Harry Stinson the same. Gen. Ames was in to see me last evening. He looks as youthful & blooming as usual. He says he has a good brigade now. He has one or two new regiments & has exchanged his Germans. He does not have any fancy for German troops, is almost uncivil to them. Gen. Barlow, I hear is doing well, so is Perry by last accounts.

Did Rowland visit you on his way back? How is the darling baby. He is such a little stranger, how could I know him. Give him papa's love. God bless you & the little household.

Lovingly
Otis

Do you hear from Mother.

1951 7/23/1863

From: O.O. Howard
Maj. Genl. Comd'g.
Headquarters Eleventh
Corps
Army of the Potomac
New Baltimore Va

To: Brig. Genl. Rufus Ingalls

OOH-1901

Source: Bowdoin

Chief Quarter Master
Army of the Potomac

[332]

Headquarters Eleventh Corps,
Army of the Potomac
New Baltimore Va. July 23d 1863

General -

I am not satisfied with the manner in which my Quarter Master conducts his Department. He has at times displayed great Energy, particularly on the march. His department towards me has been unexceptionable. But he ignores details to a great extent, and from lack of personal supervision troubles are continually arising. For example, yesterday he desired to send out a train for forage to the vicinity of Circleville. I gave the permission, but instructed him in no case to send a train without a guard. The guard was ordered and reported, but the train had already gone. Col Le Duc was away, and no officer, clerk or agent of his department could direct the guard so that it could follow the train, until it was too late. The train of eight or nine wagons was captured, but the wagons were recovered by Col Le Duc. The mules and teamsters have gone to the enemy. All this arose from neglect on his part to see that the train did not start till the guard had arrived.

I would not injure Col. LeDuc but I do not feel safe, as far as concerns my transportation, with him at the head of the Quarter Master's Department of this Corps. I therefore ask that he be assigned to duty elsewhere.

I would recommend, in case this application should be granted, that Capt. H. B. Lacy be allowed to temporarily perform the duties of Chief Quartermaster of the Corps.

Very Respectfully,
Your Obedt. Servt.
/s/ O.O. Howard [See Note]
Maj. Genl. Comd'g.

Brig. Genl. Rufus Ingalls
Chief Quarter Master
Army of the Potomac

[Written sideways on the back page, in a different hand.]
<Lt. Col. LeDuc [CHECK ORIGINAL writing hidden by tape]>
Chief Qr. Mr.
application for his relief

[Note. The entire letter was handwritten by someone other than OO Howard. However, the signature was that of OO Howard.]

1952 7/26/1863

From: Otis [OO Howard]

To: Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1902

Headquarters Eleventh
Corps,
Warrenton Junction

Source: Bowdoin

[390]

Headquarters Eleventh Corps,
Warrenton Junction
July 26th 1863

Dearest,

We are here probably for a day at the same place I was March 1862. It is not so filthy & muddy as then, but there is no good water. The creeks are muddy and the wells dry or bad. I have received but one letter from you, darling, since the battle of Gettysburg. I hope to get a mail here. For a day or two past I have had a great longing to see & be with you.

Gen. Lee's army, what there is left of it, seems to have arrived in the vicinity of Richmond once more. An attack was made upon him at Manassas Gap & at Chester - some prisoners taken, 1100 head of cattle & a large number of sheep & some horses. Whether we shall go on or not from this point is a question. The army has got pretty tired & needs rest, yet it seems as if a little more effort now might end the war.

I expect everybody would like to see home. Do you suppose I would know the baby. Whom does he resemble. I have got my picture case full. I have put Charlie's picture in the baby's place. I should like a photograph that did you justice. The bonnet is too lofty and the furs too warm for this hot weather, so I want one bonnetless, without the furs & good like your own self. I presume I shall have to photograph the baby myself in his new cradle. Does Jamie persevere in rocking the cradle. I am glad they all have so nice a tent. What piece did Guy speak at the exhibition. Papa would like to have heard him. Did he speak up boldly & in a manly style? I suppose his cheeks burned some. Did Gracie go to Guy's exhibition? I have not had any letters from the children lately. Perhaps it is because I have'nt written any. Well, you must tell them papa gets too tired to write.

Today by Uncle Charlie's help I have answered a good many letters, and in my own hand written a letter to poor Mrs Griffiths.

Many kisses & prayers for yourself & the children.

Your loving husband
Otis

1953 7/29/1863

From: O.O. Howard
Maj. Genl. U.S.Vols

To: H.W. Halleck
General in Chief

OOH-1903

Source: Bowdoin

Headquarters Eleventh
Corps,
Army of the Potomac.
Warrenton Junction

[333]

Headquarters Eleventh Corps,
Army of the Potomac.
Warrenton Junction July 29 1863

General

Allow me to introduce Maj. General Schurz. In case the proposition of General Meade, which was telegraphed to-day respecting the Eleventh Corps should be acted upon as desired, General Schurz would be left with an independent Division. In furtherance of his own views, which he will present in person, I wish to say that the General has been prompt and energetic and able during the operations in which I have been associated with him. Should you see fit to occupy the Shenandoah valley with a small force, so as to cooperate with this army & prevent its occupancy by the rebels, I believe I do not flatter him when I say, that General Schurz will not fail to give complete satisfaction.

As to the changes proposed merging two divisions of this Corps into the 2d & 12th respectively, they have my approval as also that of the division Commanders concerned. We feel sensitive under false accusations but considering the existing prejudices in this army against the 11th Corps and the great difficulty of overcoming them we regard it better for the service to make these changes.

The different Corps are now so small that a consolidation is advisable. General Steinweher desires to go with me to the 2d Corps. General Gordon with his division to the 12th. Personally it will be gratifying to me to return to the Second Corps, but I do not feel dissatisfied with the Eleventh during the present Campaign, and hope the changes referred to will not be regarded as a reflection upon the officers and soldiers of this command who have worked so hard and done so much to carry out every order.

Respectfully

/s/ O.O. Howard [see note]
Maj. Genl. U.S.Vols

H.W. Halleck
General in Chief

[written on the back]
Letter to Genl. Halleck
Introducing Genl Schurz

[Note: The entire letter was handwritten by someone other than OO Howard, except for his signature, which was written by him.]

1954 7/29/1863

From: D. McConaughy

To: Major Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-1904

President of Ever
Green Cemetery Assoc.
Gettysburg, Pa.

Source: Bowdoin

[392]

Gettysburg, Pa.
July 29th 1863

Major Gen. O.O. Howard,
General,

A correspondent of the New York times, L.L. Crouse, in a letter to that paper of date of 25th July inst., makes the following statement -

“And before the blood of the heroic men shed among the batteries in the Cemetery was fairly dry upon the ground, a bill of seventeen hundred dollars damages was presented for payment.”

As President of the Ever Green Cemetery, which is referred to in the above quotation, and at the request of its Board of Directors, it is made my duty to call your attention to this injurious charge. You may perhaps remember, General, my friendly call upon you on Saturday the 4th of July inst. at your Quarters. Upon the same day I made a friendly & congratulatory visit to Gen. Carl Shurz and Gen. Shimmilfilling at their Head Quarters in the midst of our Cemetery grounds. You and they will bear testimony that not the most distant allusion was made by me to the injuries to the Cemetery, but that I acted as if wholly unconscious of them – regarding them as nothing as compared with the glorious achievements of our army and the blood with which our brave soldiers consecrated its sod, and the grand consequence of the victory they there achieved.

At once, upon noticing this damaging accusation, I called our Board of Directors together and they all stated that the assertion was utterly without foundation, and that no demand of any kind had been made, nor any complaint.

Will you be kind enough to state in reply whether any demand for damages was made by any one professing to speak on behalf of Ever Green Cemetery, and, if not, then to negative it, and thus vindicate us from what in our judgment is only less infamous than the reckless publication of so offensive a slander.

Most respectfully
Your Obedient Servant
D. McConaughy
President of
Ever Green Cemetery Assoc.

[On back] From – President of Ever Green Cemetery Association Gettysburg
Answered

1955 7/31/1863 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

To: Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1905

Hd. Qrs. 11th Corps
Near Warrenton Juncn.

Source: Bowdoin

[394]

Hd. Qrs. 11th Corps
Near Warrenton Juncn.
July 31 1863

Dearest,

I have written quite a number of letters by dictation. I seldom write my-self. It requires so many conveniences except to you and I fear you think I do not write often enough. I saw Col. formerly Capt. Platt whom you knew at West Point day before yesterday at Hd. Qrs Army. He writes to Mrs Platt every day. I felt quite rebuked.

Yours & Guy's letter came day before yesterday. He seems to be enjoying his vacation much. I hope Uncle Rowland will let him ride. I am a little afraid my Pony is going to be cross as he puts back his ears at me once in a while. Whether he will be kind to little boys or not remains to be tested.

I noticed today for the first time a reference to the death of Mr. Carroll, Sprigg's father. I am feeling very sad about this news, for Mr Carroll was one of my most worthy friends in Washington. He ever gave me a warm welcome & took pleasure & pains to do me a kindness. How Mrs Carroll & the girls will feel his death. Sprigg is their only dependence – no, I mus'nt forget the Dr. & Gen. Griffin. I dont suppose the family will ever suffer for want of food, but it will be a sad loss for he was a kind husband & an affectionate father. Has Guy forgotten Mrs Carroll?

There is some prospect of breaking up the 11th Corps and assigning me to the old 2nd. I rather favor it. Gen Gordon wants to get to his old Corps the 12th. The Germans begin to be attached to me.

Give much love to all the children. Papa thinks of & prays for Mamma, Guy, Gracie, Jamie & the little baby every day. I cannot go home just yet, as I didnt get wounded. Gen Strong has died – friend after friend goes. Oh Lord - how long?

I shall try for a leave as soon as there is a prospect of lying still for a short time.

Lovingly
Otis