
2352 11/1/1864 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

To: Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-2301

Source: Bowdoin

Head-Quarters
Department and Army
of the Tennessee,
Cedartown, Ga.

[562]

Head-Quarters Department and Army of the Tennessee,
Cedartown, Ga. Nov 1 1864

Dearest,

I have just received yrs of 14th ult. Glad all are well. I have kept Charles from going. I have just time to say we are all well, and on the March.

Give much love to all the Children & many kisses.

I put Mrs E.A. Howard thinking in case of capture, a less likelihood of counterfeit.

Poor Gen. Ransom, whom to know was to love, has died of dysentery. The Army is healthy.

God bless you all, lovingly
Otis

2353 11/3/1864 *From:* C.E. Stowe

To: Majr. Gen'l O.O. Howard

OOH-2302

Hartford, Conn.

Source: Bowdoin

Hartford, Conn.

Nov. 3d 1864

Majr. Gen'l O.O. Howard,
Dear Sir,

My Sir,

My son, Capt. Fred. W. Stowe, A.A.G. on Gen'l Steinwehr's staff, who was severely wounded in the head, while in the cemetery with you at the great battle of Gettysburg, got his discharge from the army on the 1st of August last, and applied for a pension. We have just been informed by Mr Barrett, Commissioner of Pensions, that there must be a statement of some superior officer sent to the Pension Bureau relating the time & circumstances of receiving the wound before a pension can be granted.

Your very kind letter to Fred, when he was obliged to leave the army in Tennessee, emboldens me to ask whether you will not kindly send such a statement to the Department as is required.

The poor boy suffers intensely from the exfoliation of bone from the wound and has lost entirely the hearing of the right ear. The surgeons say the operation of <tochanning> cannot be performed so near the great arteries, that it will take two years at least for the bones to work <out> & the hearing is permanently gone. He is nervous, sleepless, & restless and generally has a very hard time of it.

He became so excessively wearied and annoyed with doing nothing, that three weeks ago, unknown to us, he enlisted as a private in the first battery Conn. Light Artillery, & has gone to the front at Petersburg, Va. He writes us that he did not feel competent to duty as an officer, but he knew he could handle guns, having been a year first Lieut. Of artillery in the Mass 15th; that as he was at the first battle of Bull Run, and participated in the repulse at Chancellorsville, he means to make up for it by helping to capture Richmond, and urges us not to feel anxious for his safety, since we must remember that cracked pitchers seldom break. But we do feel anxious, and so do the examining surgeons, but the excitement & <> of battle should bring on derangement of the brain, & perhaps brain fever, even if he should escape shot & shell.

I wrote to Mr Barrett about his enlisting a second time as private; and that I thought that under an exhibition of pluck & patriotism, so far from depriving him of his first pension, should rather entitle him to double allowance.

We have written to Gen'l Steinweher but rather at random as we cannot ascertain where he is to be found.

If you can do anything for the poor wounded, suffering, but yet plucky fellow, it will be very gratefully received by yours most respectfully,

C.E. Stowe

N.B. By a paper received form the Pension Office in Washington I find that my son's application is numbered 49, 838.

2354 11/3/1864 *From:* J.D. Brigham

To: Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-2303

New York

Comg. Army of Tenn.

Source: Bowdoin

[9]

New York, Nov. 3, 1864

My dear General:

I do not know who is now with you, as Chief QM. Col. Garber was appointed to relieve me, but I understand he prefers a station elsewhere. If you desire to have a good chief Q.Mr. with you in the field, you will undoubtedly find one in Capt F. J. Grilly, A. Q.M. who left here yesterday to report to Gen. Easton. He is a regular officer of several years experience, both in the field and Depot. He has been Gen. Van Vleit's principal Assistant here for a year and a half and all speak in very high terms of him. He would like the place, & from my acquaintance with him I believe he will suit you. He has strong recommendations from Gen. Van Vleit, Capt. Reese his classmate & both he and Capt Buell can tell you all about him.

I am on inspecting duty at present in Washington would prefer the West, where I am better acquainted. Treadwell is in Washington, Asst to Chief of Ordnance. I was at City Point Sept 30th and saw Salt Nurgon. He is well, & <>. Lazell is in Washington, but I have not seen him yet. Many express uneasiness about Sherman's position, but I tell everybody he can take care of himself. You are probably having a rough time now. The death of Ransom is a great loss to your army. Hoping to see you again, in the West.

I am yours very truly
J.D. Brigham

Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard
Comg. Army of Tenn.

[Written on the back page.]
Bridgham J.D.
New York Nov 3, 1864

2355 11/4/1864

From: Otis [OO Howard]

To: Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-2304

Source: Bowdoin

Head-Quarters
Department and Army
of the Tennessee,
Near Lost Mountain

[559, 560]

Head-Quarters Department and Army of the Tennessee,
Near Lost Mountain Nov 4th 1864

Dearest,

You remember I am now but 33 and you have gained a year on me. Can you by searching find any gray hairs? Tonight as I was writing an official letter I wrote Nov. 4th and thought as I looked at the figure, "that is Lizzies birth day." I received a good letter from you darling, three days since & answered it hastily as I then had but little time before the courier left for Rome. You write almost as if your courage was giving out. I feel that you do need my aid as well as some better expression of my sympathy than I have made. If I did not feel so strong a presence of public duty I would go home. I mean that my heart pulls me there & I know that you have to struggle on doing my duty & your own for one precious little household, and I know that you are as truly & patiently working for your country as I am and God will reward the favor with abundant fruit by & by.

I have marched my army from near Gaylesville across to near Marietta, separated from all other other troops, distance about 60 miles. A cold "norther" came on and we have had bad roads and exceedingly cold weather. I went on Lost mountain today to get a magnificent view but it hailed and blew as cold as on Mt. Washington, where you <climed>, and tonight the wind blows so hard I can scarcely write. As soon as this storm is over I will look for pleasant weather. I don't speak so freely of our movements as I might, but I am afraid of capture of mails. I have, however, thus far been very fortunate.

Chas. Got a letter from mother tonight which I have not yet read. I wished just to tell you that your wandering husband had not forgotten your birth day and would like to pinch your cheek & give you a loving kiss before you get too old. What you said about renting a place for Julia & setting her at work suits me. Don't let her tire you out. My hands get so cold I can hardly write, but I think my heart is warm yet. I don't dare be cruel to lone wives or little children for I pray God to take care of mine. This "living off a poor country" is terrible. Oh, how much the poor suffer from the wicked machinations of the rich here in the South Charles is well, so is Capt Gilbreth & Capt Beebe. Jeannie Grey wrote me a pleasant note thanking me for taking him, Beebe, on my staff & giving him a furlough. She & her mother were at his father's & have rented their house. Give much love & many kisses to the children. God bless & keep you in health & comfort till & after my return.

Lovingly
Otis

Mothers letter is of Oct 18th. She says Gracie is there and she cant think of letting her go away. She is so much company for her. Chas says Mothers letter is very sad. I wrote without knowing I had two sheets together turning over two leaves at a time. You must pick it out. What Rowland said about Mother coming to stay with him was to relieve her loneliness. She did not accept. Do what your heart dictates in Mother's case. I wish I was home to help you & her in many thoughts but you must struggle on a little longer. I hope a kind Providence will help us through this year at the furthest. Dr Dunkin has not reached me yet. I fear I shall not be able to communicate with you for some little time after a few days. I do not believe we shall be exposed to as much peril during the campaign as we have been. Charles said love to Lizzie & all the Children, says he is coming home to see them when we get to Mobile bay or some other outlet.

I expect Guy & Grace & Jamie would like to see papa, but poor little Chancey has little knowledge of him (?) Chas says he wishes you would go & stay with mother this winter & I also wish it if you ever make it all right to do so.

Good night again.
Lovingly
Otis

2356 11/7/1864 *From:* F.A. Conwell

To: Gen [OO] Howard

OOH-2305

Winnebago City
(Minnesota Land Office)

Source: Bowdoin

[167]

Winnebago City Nov 7th 1864. (Minnesota Land Office)

Gen Howard

I have followed and rejoiced at your good fortune ever since my first interview.

And for the last six months I have been engaged in promoting the substantial interest of the Soldiers by aiding them in securing under the Munificence of the Admnst. A Homestead on the Government Lands. I have already entered for Colored men in 9 A.C. 76 white men & officers 359 and have overcome every obstacle, and so far as I know am the only person, who has embarked in the business. I have seen and obtained passes, permissions, and great assistance from Hon. I.M. Edmunds Com. Of Genl L.A. Provost Marshal Patrick: Gen. Burnside and others in P. Army.

I have taken the Liberty of refering to you, which I hope will not be disallowed, as it is a mark of profit to Soldiers who are so situated as to avail themselves of it, and to me. Thus far, I have not made over a paid chaplains compensation, and for six weeks I sought a Com. As Majr. Or Chapl. With the agreement on my part to do this business free to the Soldier. But my Batt not being entitled, and no law authorising the Apt, I was told there was no impropriety in my charging 3 or 4 Dollars to each one whom I <sissed>. The Government charges for surveying 10.\$ expence of Reg. & Receipts 5.\$ revenue stamps 55/100 one Dollar for each Farm platt and other necessary incidental expences. I find 20.\$ to be necessary to make me a mine support, so far, I have done it for less.

If, as I sincerely hope, the Soldiers friends continue to hold the reins of Government, no officer or man will be in danger of losing his Land. I have entered for 6 Cals, 1 Brig. Gen, 9 chaplains & surgeons, Majors &c.

My Reg was discharged and mustered out 5th May. I volunteered to go front with the Battalion, and have done in addition to the Land business the full duty of Chaplain. All my intrests are in the Church and Union cause, in the first I have donated 3 & in the second three years my two sons and committed and working for both, with those causes I hope to live and rise, and if they fail, I see nothing worth living or dying for. But in the first we have the word of the faithful and true witness, and in the second we have grounds for hope and effort.

I am <Honored> Gen

Yours Truly

F.A. Conwell Late Chaplain to 1st Minnesota Reg. Inf. Vols.

2357 11/8/1864 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

To: Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-2306

Source: Bowdoin

Head-Quarters
Department and Army
of the Tennessee,
Atlanta Ga.

[558]

Head-Quarters Department and Army of the Tennessee,
Nov 8th Atlanta Ga. 1864

Dearest

I write you on my birthday –34 yrs. Just to think of it! My voice sounds young & I think my manner is boyish, but if I can believe Dr Duncan I am much more than a year older than you. How Grey! He can mark our coming too, but really I don't care so long as I am given health & strength.

I sent you 1000 dollars in bonds by Col M.C. Garber my Senior Chf Quartermaster to be taken to Nashville and mailed for Augusta. I will send the numbers of the 10 bonds in my next letter.

Believe my heart to be full of love for you & the children. I have work that must now be done. I want to write you a full letter before marching & will do so after it is too late for enemy to take notes. God bless you all.

Lovingly
Otis

2358 11/9/1864

From: D Remick
Lut Col and Chief C
S
Dept Tenn
Head Quarters Dept
Tenn
Office of the Chief C.S.
Atlanta Ga.

To: Col.

OOH-2307

Source: Bowdoin

[348]

Head Quarters Dept Tenn
Office of the Chief C.S.
Atlanta Ga. Nov 9 '64

Col.

You will report on the last day of each month the C.S. and A.C.S. on duty in your Corps what duty they are performing and what they are accountable for. Make this report in tabular form.

You will also report on the 1st 6 10th 15th 20th 26th and last day of the month the number of rations each Division Commissary had on hand in Your Command and the number of rations each Commissary is issuing on provision returns to Soldiers and the number of Officers and Servants that each Commissary issues to.

By Ordr Maj Genl Howard
(Signed) D Remick
Lut Col and Chief C S
Dept Tenn

2359 11/10/1864 *From:* D Remick *To:* Col.
Lut Col and Chief C
S
Dept Tenn
OOH-2308 Head Quarters Dept
Source: Bowdoin Tenn
Office of the Chief C.S.
Atlanta Ga

[349]

Copy

Head Quarters Dept Tenn
Office of the Chief C.S.
Atlanta Ga Nov 10th 1864

Col

After your wagons are loaded make a report to me of the amount in wagons and in the hands of the troops so that I can report to Col Beckwith the day we move. Keep me well informed of the workings of foraging parties the amount of beef Cattle Sheep & hogs Corn meal flour Salt & vegetables taken, and by whom and how disposed of. Have the Division Commissaries make every proper effort to procure half of the rations from the Country. Allow nothing to be wasted.

Inspect the Stores in wagons every day to see that no. packages are broken open or theft committed. As soon as you can empty wagons, let foraging parties have them to gather Subsistence. On the day you move from Atlanta put into haversacks as follows.

(3) Three days full rations & Bread to last (4) days
(6) Six days full rations Coffee to last (6) days
(3) Three days full rations Sugar to last (6) days
(8) Eight days full rations Salt to last (6) days
full rations of beef killed every night

Have Division Commissaries keep on hand from Seventy five to two hundred head beef and keep them close to their troops so that they can Slaughter in the evening instead of morning thereby giving Soldiers time to Cook for the next days march.

By Order of Maj Genl Howard
D. Remick
Lut Col and Chief CS Dept Tenn

2360 11/11/1864 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

To: Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-2309

Source: Bowdoin

Head-Quarters
Department and Army
of the Tennessee,
Smyrna Camp Ground

[557]

Head-Quarters Department and Army of the Tennessee,
Smyrna Camp Ground Novr 11 1864

Dearest

I have just received your letter mailed Oct. 28 just after your return from Leeds. It was a very short one, but I was very glad to get it. I have sent you a check of a thousand dollars, no not a check but ten bonds of 100 dolls each. I will enclose in this letter the numbers and the series.

From present appearances, we shall be cut off from communication for some little time. I don't know myself when we shall go, but we have stripped for a trip in the enemy's country. You mustn't be anxious if you don't get a letter or have a dispatch from me for a month. I could not spare Charles to leave me very well & thought he had better be with me during this expedition.

I am in favor of any course that will conduce to mother's happiness & your own.

From what we hear Lincoln must be elected as we have the report that all states as far as heard from have gone for him. McClellans pro-slavery proclivities, have ruined him for Providence had to go on with the great work and leave him behind. I don't think he has a bad heart, but he has made a mistake to ally himself with malcontents at such a time as this. I wonder what he will now do –resign or accept a command.

I enclose you a short notice of Gen Ransom, which you may send to the Journal for publication. It is in no way an exaggeration. I don't know a young officer who bid so fair to become a great man as Ransom. He was very handsome and good as well as able. I send you also a copy of my order after his death.

Give much love to Guy. Dr Duncan thought him a very fine boy, says he had many questions to ask about the way we did things here. Grace must receive papa's love. So she has left Grandma. She thought she could not spare her. Jamie won Dr Dunkin's admiration from his perseverance with his new top. I expect he has some adhesive, but I hope he is not so moderate as his father. Chancy cant have Jamies gravity if uncle Rowland does call him a D.D. Mamma must kiss them both and tell them papa sends greeting. I hope yet to give you a visit before the spring.

I am not now responsible for the troops on the Mississippi as the War Department has transferred all that to Canby's Milty. Divn. I am not sorry as it was difficult to conduct affairs there & here at the same time & be in the field. Gen Sherman has virtually put his division under Gen. Thomas while away.

Dr. Duncan sends his Photograph with his compliments, which you will find enclosed, and his "Kindest remembrances".

All our troops are now paid, but a few men, and many are sending home their money to their families. A good many of this army had not been paid for ten months.

Maj Whittlesey is well and often speaks of you. I am glad you were able to visit Mrs Whittlesey. Gilbreth is quite well, got up and dressed yesterday morning before any of us. He seems to have quite a penchant for "May Morrill". He will have to be a very good man to deserve her if she is as good as she is beautiful. Don't be jealous, darling, for you must remember you are my standard of comparison. My kindest regards to Harry Stinson & his mother. I do hope Dr Hill is benefitting him. I shall request him to join me again if I get into a good permanent camp in the right place, but till then he had better have the care of home.

I have established a Head Quarters with Lieut Col. <Chuk> in charge at Nashville Tenn. It may be moved to

Louisville Ky eventually. This will remain so till we turn up.

May God bless you with much of the presence & influence of His Holy Spirit and aid you in all your difficult & responsible duties, and that he may give us a good, a lasting peace & permit me to join you & the little ones at home is always my prayer.

Lovingly
Otis

2361 11/11/1864 *From:* Nicholas Vedder
PMUSA

To: Major [Th. J.] Saunders.
PMUSA

OOH-2310

Smyrna Ga

Source: Bowdoin

[168]

Smyrna Ga Nov. 11th 1864

Major [Th. J.] Saunders.
PMUSA-

On completion of your payment you will immediately report to Major William Allen Chief P.M. D.C. at Louisville Ky. A train will leave from this station this evening. Gen. Howard assures me that he will see to it, that you are transported to Chattanooga whenever you finish the pay.

Respectfully &c
Nicholas Vedder
PMUSA
in chg pay A of Tenn

2362 11/12/1864 *From:* Th. J. Saunders

To: Maj. General [OO]
Howard

OOH-2311

Vening Station Georgia

Source: Bowdoin

Vening Station Georgia,
Nov. 12th 1864

Maj. General Howard:-
Dear Sir,

Accompanying, you will find a note, addressed to me yesterday by Maj. N. Vedder, Paymr. In Charge of the Army of the Tennessee, to which I beg the privilege of directing your attention.

Preliminary to other matters, suffer me to State that I had an assignment of five Iowa Regiments to pay –that I was obliged to come upon the field with the rolls in an imperfect condition –that I have laboured since being here, assiduously, and according to orders –and, that in the conscientious performance of my duty, both to the Government and the Soldier, I find myself, this evening, only about completing the payment of the third regiment. I have not suffered myself to be annoyed by what others may have chosen to do, thinking that in the end all would be right. I believe my business to be, to pay the soldier right, and not dismiss him from the table, merely to suit any convenience of my own –and, so believing, and acting in accordance with the idea, I find myself on the field. The position is one which I had hardly anticipated, but I feel inclined to meet it fairly.

May I ask as a favour, if I am to follow the Brigade, adequate transportation for my safe, (containing quite a large sum of money) field-desk and light baggage. Then, when the army shall settle again –or perhaps, while it is in progress –I may be able to complete the order which has been given me by Maj. Vedders.

I might as well say here, if the army is to move tomorrow, early, no process can be instituted that I can conceive of, which would complete the payment of my assignment. I certainly want several days –and, as I expect to have a supervision of all matters pertaining to the disbursement of public funds entrusted to my care, you will see probably, that the thing is impossible, of getting through.

I will thank you to return the order of Major Vedder, and, if not asking too much, to advise me properly.

Very Respectfully
Yours &c,
Th. J. Saunders
Paymr. &c

2363 11/13/1864 *From:* Grace E. Howard

To: My Dear Papa [OO
Howard]

OOH-2312

Augusta

Source: Bowdoin

[22]

Augusta Nov 13 1864

My Dear Papa

I have been out to Grandmas a good long while, but have now come home have been home two weeks we are going to go to Leeds to spend the winter. Mamma is laying on the lounge and Chancy wants to bylo with her. Chancy and Jamie are runing from the big rocking chair to the small one. Chancy can say a good many words he cals potatoes and fritters tato and he has a name for most everything.

Nov 27. it is Sunday night we are at grandmas have been out here one day. It is two weeks since I have written any in this letter. There is a school a mile from here that I went to when I was here the last time although I did not study, I do not think I shall go to school this winter perhaps Guy will if we do we shall have to ride. Are you and uncle charlie well. I am going to try too make a comfort bag and send to your soldiers. Many kisses to Uncle charley and yourself. I am writing in grandmas dining room at the table so are Guy and Mamma and Grandma is reading on the other side of the table. Wee brought four trunks besides chancys two chairs. We are going to have a christmas tree here. I am sitting with my back to the fire that makes me very warm. Send my love to Uncle charley so Goodbye

From your Affectionate Daughter
Grace E. Howard

PS Chancey and jamie are both asleet Lizzie and I brought the cradle up from aunt synthia chancy is in it now
Goodbye

2364 11/13/1864 *From:* Guy [Howard]

To: Dear Papa [OO Howard]

OOH-2313

Augusta

Source: Bowdoin

[52]

Augusta Nov 13 1864

Dear Papa

It is Sunday afternoon. I went to church this founnoon. It is snowing very hard this afternoon for the first time this Fall. The ground begins to look very white now. We are all in the library this afternoon. How long before you think of coming home. I hope you will come home this Winter. I think we shall have a very good time at school this winter at Grandemothers. I wonder what Chancy will say to the sleighs this Winter. I think Chancy would like to ride in a sleigh this Winter very much. Grace sends her love to you and Jamie sends some kisses too. I can go right on with my studis at Leeds. I shall need no new books if I go to school. Mrs. Jackson and Mother send their love to you. Chancy has the Sunday school paper and is looking at the pictures with mother. He is talking a great deal about it. Julia is going to be married to a negro from the south, whose name is Fred Brown she has engaged two rooms in a house on North street.

Leeds Nov 27 1864

We were in Augusta last Thanksgiving day. I can't write my letters very good to night for I am very tired. I had a good deal to do Thanksgiving day helping Mother settle up the winter business. I had a new pair of skats this winter and hope to have a very good time skating. Jamies birthday is next Thursday. I got him a set of nine-pins and some peperments. He says he wants an engine. He says that he wants to snap some corn. I think he would burn it up and he keeps asking if the snows will be on the ground his birthday. It is some cloudy so I think there will be enough snow on the ground so that he can have a sleigh ride in the new sleigh that granpa bought last winter of Mr Oliver Gilbert but it is as good as new. I send my love and many kisses too. I was out on the ice trying it and wet my feet and cought a little cold. That's why I don't fell quite well. Give my love to Uncle Charley.

From your son Guy.

Mother says Mr Lane has written to know if you still want to buy his farm \$3000.00

2365 11/14/1864 *From:* D. Remick Lt Col
QM

To: Maj Genl [OO] Howard

OOH-2314

Head Qutrs A Tenn

Commndg Army Tenn

Source: Bowdoin

[169]

Head Qutrs A Tenn
Nov 14th 64

Maj Genl Howard
Commndg Army Tenn

Genl

Genl Corses Commissary came in this morning. He has about ten days rations from this morning of hard bread in wagons and with the men more than that of sugar & coffee. Genl Smith I think will have fifteen days when he arrives from what I can learn. I have issued all salt meat for the troops for the last eight days and we issue two days more to day to the troops that are here and save three days bacon for the two Drivers that are to arrive. We are issuing about six ounces tobaco to every non comm'nd officer and enlisted man. I think we will get away from here with about seventeen days if we go day after tomorrow of H. Bread & twenty seven sugar & coffee & sixty salt. Our cattle will have to be drove out of town under strong guard to graze today or they will starve.

I have the honor to be

Very truly
Your humble Svt
D. Remick Lt Col QM

2367 11/17/1864 *From:* Rowland [RB
Howard]

To: Dear Brother Otis [OO
Howard]

OOH-2315

Farmington

Source: Bowdoin

[56]

Farmington Nov 17 1864

Dear Brother Otis

Uncle Ensign was in last evening and said Mr Lane had an opportunity to sell the old farm, & that he can have 3000 for the same. Uncle E. says he was to write you when this contingency arose and he will do so soon, but you had better write Lane or us when you receive this, if you wish to purchase it.

Henry Mitchell formally of Leeds, Son of Warren M. now of Industry writes me a letter from Sheridans Army where he is a member of Co. A. 29th Me. Reg. asking my interest with you to get him detailed for some duty that he can do better than that of the line on acct. of a state of his eyes nearly approaching to blindness. I wrote him that I would name it to you but had no expectation that you would be able to do anything with Gen. Sheridan for him.

A man by the name of Blake, a friend of his, writes that cousin Silas Lee died at the Sisters Hospital St Louis, the 24th of Oct of Chronic disease. He was sick at the Planters hotel during Sept & this man was with him. I have forwarded his letter to Sarah now in Philadel. Poor Silas –he only lacked goodness to have been a useful man! Blake says nothing of his Souls preparation for Death. His last letter to Sarah that I saw seemed to express penitence.

Uncle Ensign thinks Dellie is to leave home Monday next. I have written him & Mother to come here for Thanksgiving, & I hope they will come. I want to know more of their plans before he goes away. We have had four days of pretty good sleighing & it has been well improved. We had a meeting & contribution for the Freedmen last night & will have a con. For C.C. Thanksgiving Day. I do not preach. I go to a neighborhood prayer meeting tonight.

I wrote Charles last Monday. I hope the Rebels know as little with regard to your movements as we do. Our accts. Are all so conflicting that I do not know when you left Atlanta nor whither you go. But may God go with you. May he appear unto you as unto Jacob at Bethel. May all your battles be fought & won on your knees before you see your Enemy.

Sat morn 19th. Mrs Patten is here but goes home this morn. She wishes me to give you her love & also Charles. We had a letter from Lizzie last evening. Julia is to be married Monday Evening & L. goes to Leeds then as soon as she can get away. Her family was well. I hope you will have a good Thanksgiving Dinner –taking your bread with cheerfulness of heart.

Your affectionate Brother
Rowland

2368 11/21/1864 *From:* Watkin Thomas

To: General [OO] Howard

OOH-2316

Camp Norton
Indianapolis, Ind.

Source: Bowdoin

[170]

Camp Norton
Indianapolis, Ind. Nov 21st [1864, the year had written in pencil]

General Howard
"General"

I have the honor Sir, to respectfully present the following petition for your consideration & beg Sir, that you will pardon the liberty I take in troubling your valuable time. Not long since, Sir, I wrote to an officer whom I supposed to command the Provost Guard of your Corps, but have reason to believe that I addressed the wrong Officer and hence, my reason for now writing this.

My object Sir in making this petition is to state, Sir, that I was conscribed into the Rebel Army during last Feby & was sent with the 22d Ala Regt to the front of Dalton, at which place I remained until its evacuation by the Rebel forces, at which time I threw down my arms, left the Regt & went over to Dug Gap Valley & surrendered myself as a Deserter to the Commander of Provost Guard of General Howards Corps.

I was then examined by the Commander spoken of above. I told him that I had been shoved into the Rebel Army nolens volens & that being a Native of New York & having all my relatives in the North I had left with the hopes of being allowed to take the oath & sit at liberty. An immediate advance was ordered & I was sent on to Dalton with other Prisoners, through mistake & from Dalton I was sent on to this Prison in which I have been confined every since. I have applied for the Oath here & hope Sir, that by this means I may obtain my much wished for release. As I have stated sir, I have no sympathy with the Rebels, am a Northerner by birth & am very willing to obey & abide by all laws that may be enforced & I humbly request that you will lend your valuable influence Sir, in my behalf, that I may be set at liberty & hope Sir, that I may shortly be honored with an answer to this. Sir, I remain

With Respect
Your Obt Servt
Watkin Thomas
Division No 11
Camp Norton

[Written in another hand at the top of the last page]
Watkins Thomas
Rebel deserter

2369 11/22/1864 *From:* Ensign Otis

To: My Dear nephew [OO
Howard]

OOH-2317

Leeds

Source: Bowdoin

[171]

Leeds Novr 22d 1864

My Dear nephew

Mr Lane informed me some ten days since that he had decided to sell his farm as he had said to you and to me he would give you the first offer. He has to day made the terms. For the original farm as it was when he bought (that is the boundaries) with the addition of 15 acres on the south extending the fields 45 rods or more including the spring & the stream (above Mr Boothbys line) which he bot off of Fathers wood lot, price three thousand five hundred dollars.

I regard it as some 200 dollars above what he can readily have, without the addition as above which he recently purchased. Mr Foss offers him 3000 dollars, & an other purchaser is ready to give the same. I regard the Farm as worth much more than the mere value of the land for farming purposes –by this addition the saving of fence & the addition of an abundance of water. Tis probable that the price is some higher on all farms than it was one year ago. Tis generally estimated that real estate has advanced 50 per cent withing some three miles of the R Road in 13 years or since the commencement to build it. The greatest rise on wood land of which this farm has a large share. Some consideration is due to the time Mr Lane must wait to get an answer from you which we have fixed at sixty days as the extent with the understanding that you will give as early an answer as is practicable. We all feel anxious that you should have the Farm and at such price as could be realized readily for it. Partly on your mothers account as she would be like to come into this neighbourhood.

Mr Ramsdell who purchased the old farm of John Harrison has sold it for \$2500 within a few days. It contains 100 acres about 20 bog & the wood under the hill on the west end & small. There has been no other sale of late near here. As Rowland wrote you a few days since I suppose he gave you all the Family & local news that would interest you.

We have much solicitude for you, Gen Sherman & that part of his army with him. Great interest is manifest by the entire community. The result of the election, the tone of the public press & the satisfied demeanor of almost the entire people has inspired me with a confidence and value in our government & institutions which I was never before aware of. Surely our chastising has not been in vain. Is not the time for our deliverance at hand. Gratitude & humility in view of our nation seem to be <missing>.

I have been absent from home of late have not seen your mother for weeks but learn her health is good that Rodelphus would leave today for N. York to be absent six months, that Lizzie & the children would be here the first of Dec, that our friends generally are well.

Silas Lee died at St Louis the 24th ult. That Perry had gone to Sandusky with his Regt. Sarah his sister is absent on a visit at Boston, N. York, Philadelphia & perhaps Sandusky & Indiana.

The season mild have had tiney snow, all gone. No frost in the ground. Some mud. Are sending out vegetables to the 2d Maine cavalry. Some of the boys home on furrow. Warren is comander of the post. One boy who went in the 30th writes of ten has been uniformly well. Keeps us posted of that Regt in Shenedary Army. Laura & the babe are well & both cheerful. The boy has as much action as is consistent with a quiet household. Rail Road is doing well, will earn 160000, 90 to 100,000 net, enough to pay more than 6 per cent on cost is said to have done the best of any road east of Portland.

I have written this for page for you & Charles to look at. If you have leisure, but the other trust you will answer to me your mother & Mr Lane.

Our prayers, our love and affection for you & Charles,
Ensign Otis

2370 11/22/1864 *From:* Rowland [RB
Howard]

To: Dear Lizzie [Howard]

OOH-2318

Farmington

Source: Bowdoin

[556]

Farmington Nov. 22 1864

Dear Lizzie

We were glad to hear from you & hope Julia is safely married. It seems to me that you have done all & more for her than could be expected. Ella wants to know what you think of Alice's boarding with Julia till she can get a place. If she was there she would be more likely to secure one than here.

I got a letter from Charles last night dated the 10th. I suppose they started for – on the 12th. He sent this & you doubtless got one by the last train. He seemed in good spirits & wrote very approvingly of Otis!

We invited Del & Mother here Thanksgiving, but hear he was to go away yesterday. We still hope Mother will come. I am sorry Dellie went away without seeing me & letting me know what he has done or proposes to do about Mothers business affairs.

Sarah has visited Philad & returned to N.Y. Miss Clara Davis goes to Gardiner to spend Thanksgiving. She has been here since Saturday. She will go to Augusta before she returns, to visit the Hospitals &c. Frank goes to Bath with Horace to recover & will come up to Leeds when he has made his visit in B.

Cousin Silas Lee died at Sisters Hospital Oct. 24th of Chronic Disease. A friend of his wrote a letter to Sarah which I have forwarded. My only fear about you & the children this winter is with regard to keeping warm. I want the house well banked up – great wood boxes in all the rooms well filled by the hired man a no. of times per day.

Ella joins me in love. We hope to see you here soon after you get settled at Leeds.

Wont you please write just a word about Alice's going to Julia's. Love to Guy & Grace & all the little folks

from their loving Uncle
Rowland

2371 11/27/1864 *From:* Lizzie [Howard]

To: Dearest [OO Howard]

OOH-2319

Leeds, Me.

Source: Bowdoin

Leeds, Me. Nov. 27th 1864

Dearest

I cannot remember the date of my last letter, but I know it has been some time since I wrote you –two weeks or more. I will begin back as far as Julia's wedding which took place last Monday evening. I trust she has got an hones, industrious husband. She engaged two rooms, and as she and the children are well clothed for the Winter. I do not see why they may not get on very well for the Winter. I have her two bedsteads, bedding she had used, table, chairs, tub &c, and from the time she came to me up to the time she went away I paid out one hundred dollars in money, besides sewing for them and giving garments partly worn. I don't feel that I did too much, but only kept them comfortable while with me and did not let them leave me without fixing them up as well as I could for the Winter. I found it best not to let them have too much at a time for neither of them –the mother or children –knew how to take care of their things properly. I don't regret having had them this length of time, but I would not like to go through the same again, and as Aunt Caddy said I hope I wont have any "eturned missionary on my hands"

Julia was married at our house by Rev. Mr. McKenzie. Mr Bosworths family, Guy, Grace, Mrs Jackson, Mrs Partridge and George Stinson, (the Capt. And his mother could not come out in the rain) were present at the ceremony, and Julia had four of her friends come into the Parlor with her & mr Brown. The Bride & Bridegroom came in first followed by the other two couple. They returned to the dining room after the ceremony was over when the table of refreshments was all ready for them. I went out soon after and cut the ice cream and Guy took it into the Parlor to my friend. Grace taking and passing around the basket of cake. Then I returned to the Parlor leaving the wedding party to enjoy themselves. She left that night leaving the children till the next night.

I have just been telling Mother about the Wedding, and what a good funny time we had, and now here we are at Mother's. I regreted somewhat leaving Augusta, and all the good people, but know I shall enjoy being with Mother very much. I feel that we both have very good friends in Augusta. I certainly am very much attached to the people there.

Mrs Blaine gave a very pretty party just before I came away, they have a new Piano, and it being something new for them as they never had one before. It was a musical entertainment –some very fine singers and musicians present. Mr Bosworth invited me to go with him, his wife was not well enough to go. Mr & Mrs Gilbreth were there and took me home for which I was very much obliged as it had snowed during the evening. I was invited over to the Arsenal with the children to spend Thanksgiving day, but I did not accept as I should have had to make a very short, hurried visit.

Julia came back to do the ironing Tuesday and to cook Wednesday, and then I did not have her after that. We had a feast of a sermon in the morning from Mr McKenzie. I will send you a copy when published as I presume it will be. Mrs Jackson stayed till I came away.

We came together on our journey as far as Brunswick. I send Aunt Mary a jar of pickles of my own make. She will think it quite a present.

I received the ten "bonds" you sent, and Guy and I settled all bills before leaving. I did not have money enough as you had invested this last in Bonds so I sole or had a 5/20 bond (4500.00) converted into money. I left three hundred dollars on deposit. I have not taken all the Money Uncle Edward collected and have there one hundred sixty seven dollars. I don't know as you care to know about my finances, but you might. Guy and Grace finished their letters this evening –the letters they commenced two weeks ago.

Morning. I left my letter last evening and will now finish. I don't know what I wrote morning for a few lines above for it is three o'clock in the afternoon. Rowland came down today and will return this evening. I will send these letters by him. Chancy is almost sick- takes cold, getting teeth - and he is crying so I cannot write. Grace has him while I try to finish this.

Mother seems quite well now. She went to Lewiston the day we came out here. She went to Farmington and did not get the letter I wrote her but I wrote to Rowland Thanksgiving day and told him we were coming the next day. One horse was at the Depot and Mr Lothrop let us have his horse and send it back the next morning when the men went for the four trunks.

Good bye. I am in the midst of a small rebellion. May God prosper the Army and take of you both.

With love
Lizzie