
2372 12/5/1864 *From:* H. M. Stinson

To: Dear General [OO
Howard]

OOH-2320

Augusta

Source: Bowdoin

[172]

Augusta
Dec. 5th / 64

Dear General,

Your letter of Oct. 27th was duly received and I thank you very much for the interest and kind wishes expressed. I should have answered it long ago, had I not know that you were out of the reach of letters.

When I last wrote to you I had very little hope of returning to the army, but am happy to say that now I have strong expectations of so doing. My cough is better and night sweats, that troubled me a great deal, have disappeared. My lungs are not entirely right as yet, but I think it is much better for me to be in a warmer climate than this and so I think I shall try to leave here in a month or so if I keep on improving. Should I find myself unable to perform my duty I can resign out there.

The interest in Sherman's movements is intense, and well it might be. At first we obtained very full reports from the rebel press, but lately the news from that source is very meager; they state that they do not wish to give our government any information and are therefore silent. The extensive publication of Genl. Sherman's order brings your name prominently before the public as commander of the right wing. I feel that I have lost a glorious campaign by not being with you.

There is a matter I must write to you about as I promised to do so. Mrs. Munson (mother of Lieut. Munson formerly of the 5th Me. And now of the regular army) come here from Farmington to see me about her son obtaining some position on your staff. I gave her little encouragement and told her that the probability was that there would be no chance for him as there are so many applicants whenever there is a vacancy. Lieut M. is now stationed near San Francisco and is Q.M. of his regiment. While he was in the 5th Me., I was somewhat acquainted with him and should say he is a fine young man and one of good principles. He is anxious to see more active service, and hoped that some vacancy might occur soon or later that he might fill.

I saw Mrs. H. and the children the day they left for Leeds. They all seemed well and in good spirits. Thanksgiving was a quiet day here, and I presume a happy one. An old prison chum of mine took Dinner and spent the day with us, so it was very pleasant for me. The weather has been splendid for a few days. It seems strange to have such days after Winter has set in. All the Autumn it was very unpleasant. Wheels are still in use, there having been no snow yet sufficient to make sleighing.

I long to be well and back with the army. It is very pleasant to be at home, but it is very quiet here and I would like once more to be on horseback. Please give my kindest regards to the Major and Gilbreth, also Maj. Whittlesey. Hoping you may all reach the coast in safety I remain

Affectionately yours
H. M. Stinson

2373 12/9/1864 *From:* Leman W. Bradley

To: Major General O.O.
Howard

OOH-2322

Hudson N.Y.

Source: Bowdoin

[173]

Hudson N.Y. Dec 9th 1864

Major General O.O. Howard
Dear Sir:

Your kind letter of March 1st enclosing a recommendation to the Gov. N.Y. was received. It has done me great good. That together with Gen. Hancock, Miles and others procured my promotion. I was commissioned Lt Col May 5th and Col July 14th.

I was in Command of my Regiment at Wilderness, Pr <Rive> and I led it at the charge made by Maj Gen Hancock at Spotsylvania May 12th when I was badly wounded through the right arm which is now partially paralyzing and disabled. This with the wound I received at Fair Oaks makes me a cripple in both arms.

My Regt. Has been so reduced in numbers, and the times of several companies having expired that it has been consolidated into a Battalion. I was mustered out. I have served over three years. The unit <>.

I have been recommended by my friends at home for the position of Commissary General of the State of New York under Gov Ruben E. Fenton. Bishop Tunes of the Methodist Episcopal Church has written a letter a copy of which I will enclose.

Horace Greeley paid me quite a compliment at the meeting of the Electoral College at Albany this week and I was elected the <> the Judge of the United States for the Northern District.

If you can consistently favor me with a letter to Governor Fenton it will be of great help to me. I have so many office seeking politicians to contend with that I am compelled to appeal to military.

My address is Hudson, Columbia Co N.Y.

Most respectfully
Your obedient servant
Leman W. Bradley
late Col 64th N.Y.V.

2374 12/9/1864

From: E.S Janes
Bishop of the M.E.
Church
New York

To: His Excellency R.E.
Fenton

OOH-2323

Governor of the State of New
York

Source: Bowdoin

[174]

New York, Dec 9th 1864

To His Excellency R.E. Fenton [Reuben Eaton Fenton]
Governor of the State of New York

Learning that the name of Col. L.M. Bradley of Hudson N.Y. will be presented to your Excellency for the appointment of Commissary Gen. for the State, I take pleasure in certifying to your Excellency, that in my judgement his high moral character and excellent business talents eminently fit him for that office. Moreover Col. Bradley is one of her soldiers of whom the State has reason to be proud, and whose military service and sufferings the State should acknowledge. He entered the military service of the country as early as April 1861, as a Lieutenant of N. York Volunteers. He rose by promotions recommended by his superior Officers, for skillful and gallant services to be Col. Of the 54th Regt. N.Y. Vols. He served with distinguished bravery in such battles as Fair Oaks, Chancellorsville, Gettysburgh, Wilderness, Spottsylvania and many others of less magnitude but of equal severity. He was twice severely wounded, from which wounds his general health has suffered much. Because of his honesty, competency, patriotism and military services and sufferings, I trust your Excellency will see it right and expedient to give Col Bradley the Office for which he is named.

With great Respect
Your Obedient Servant
(signed) E.S Janes [Edmund S. Janes]
Bishop of the M.E. Church

[Written sideways on the back.]

Genl.

This appears to be a private letter to you not connected with the business of the Army. I therefore return it to you not considering it necessary to file with the public letters at these Hd Qrs.

Very Respectfully
Your Obt Servt
Saml L Taggart
AAGn
New Berne NC
May 6 /65

2375 12/15/1864 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

To: Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-2324

Source: Bowdoin

Hd. Qrs. Army & Dept.
of Tenn.
Ossabaw Sound
Str Harvest Moon

[581]

Hd. Qrs. Army & Dept. of Tenn.
Ossabaw Sound
Str Harvest Moon Dec 15th 1864

Dearest,

It has been now thirty days since I have had a letter, but the mails are now nearby. We have made a complete connection with the Fleet at last. I sent Capt Duncan with two Scouts down the Ogeechee. He passed all obstructions & made his way to the Vessels. His dispatch went North and I am in hopes relieved you as well as many others from much anxiety. We have invested Savannah but have not yet got into the city. Gen. Hardee has quite a little enemy thre and swamps in his front.

I do hope you & the children are well. I can only write a few words now. Admiral Dahlgren is sending me to reconnoiter up some of these inlets. Charles is well & in this room. Capt. Gilbreth is very well. Give much love to the little ones. Whenever operations cease long enough, I mean to take a trip home. Much kind regards to Stinson. I hope he is well & to his mother. God bless you all.

Lovingly
Otis

Direct –Army & Dept Tenn
Via Savannah, Ga.

2376 12/16/1864 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

To: Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-2325

Source: Bowdoin

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

[555]

Head-Quarters Department and Army of the Tennessee,
Near Savannah Ga. Dec 16 1864

Dearest,

I have just returned from making a sea-reconnaissance and am pretty tired but as Col <Brubeck> has very kindly offered to take any message or dispatch north, I will just write that we are all well, investing the city and having a good connection with the fleet.

You must send word to Mother that we are in good health. Chas & myself. Capt Gilbreth is very well. Give much love to the children & much more to yourself.

Lovingly your husband
Otis

2377 12/18/1864 *From:* Lizzie [Howard]

To: Dearest [OO Howard]

OOH-2326

Leeds

Source: Bowdoin

[61]

Leeds, Dec. 18 / 64

Dearest,

I have missed your letters very much during the past month, but hope soon to hear from you again. We were very happy to see your name in the papers of Thursday last. I mean the first order sent to the "Commander of the Naval Forces" and dated Dec 9th. I can assure you it was with a humble, thankful heart that I read those few words. Many have been the reports we have had about "herman's Army" through rebel sources, and we could hear nothing but that all was well with you.

I hardly know what to write to you I want to tell you so much and I know not where to begin. You will be glad to learn that we are quite well. Mother also. I am very anxious to get letters. Rowland writes to know if I had dispatches at the time the other dispatch came. I have received none and presume none was sent as early as that time. I may get one any time now. We think it must be that Savannah (as the papers report) is captured.

You do not as yet know that we did come to Leeds. We have been here three weeks only, but I should like to take a look at Augusta. I have not heard from there since I left. You will come and see us all before spring wont you? I know not how much hard work you have before you but trust you will get time to make a visit here. I hope you and Charlie are very well and will not fear to come North during the cold weather. The children do not attend the school here but have lessons at home to keep with their classes at Augusta. Isabella teaches the school and if it was near here would let them go.

You will soon if you have not already get a letter from Uncle Ensign with regard to the 'old farm' which Mr Lane offers for sale –at thirty two hundred dollars, with a piece of the woods off – piece was John Otis'. As soon as Rowland learned the fact he wrote, Mother says, to dissuade you from purchasing it. Mother seems to talk as if she had a desire to go there to live, but has lost her attachment to the place. When you come home for good I shall want a home as is a home or some place that is nearly akin to one. Any place where we can all be united under one roof would be home to me.

I do not like the turn conversation takes here –the faults of neighbors – paid ten cents for this and three cents for that.

Mother, Guy, Grace and the hired man went to the Centre to church and returned after the morning service. Mr Richardson not being able to preach in the afternoon. My time is nearly all taken up with the children. I think Chancy has missed something he hardly knows what, but will some days speak often about "Julia" and then want to be amused. She was very kind to him. I hope they are doing well and happy.

Friday Evening. Dec 23d.

I have let my letter remain unfinished for several days waiting for news, and the roads to be "broken out." We have had three severe snow storms –high winds and Ther. Fourteen degrees below zero this morning. I want very much, Dearest, to see you but I should fear to have you here during the coldest weather. Dellie was to have started from Albany this week so as to have reached home to-night, but the 'trains' are very irregular. We don't know what time he can reach here, and Mother did not send the horse for him. The morning train passed here about noon (going to Brunswick).

Wednesday Evening, Dec 28th.

I left my letter, Dearest, last Friday evening when we heard sleigh bells and Dell very unexpectedly came in, having borrowed Mr Lothrop's horse and sleigh to get here. The weather is very much warmer and we can move about with much more comfort.

I was very anxious about the children during those severe days. Jamie has'nt been well since we came –neck swollen –cough &c. I let him go out whenever it is suitable.

I went to church last Sunday, heard an excellent sermon from Elder Richardson, much better than I expected to hear. Guy and I took Dell to the Depot Monday morning. He went to Bath and came home via Lewiston to-day. Mother and Dell are looking over the books at the table with me.

Children all asleep. Grace sleeps up in the "south chamber" with Mother. I sleep in what was always Mothers "bed room" with Jamie and Chancy. Guy occupies the same room Alvin, the hired man, does, at the head of the back stairs.

Mother's girl went home to stay three weeks and has not yet returned. I doubt if she comes back. Another came and staid two weeks –could not stay longer. We have been alone two weeks. Mother would like to get a good girl but don't just now hear of one. I hope she will be able to for I don't like to see Mother work about house so much. I try to assist all I can and Grace is very handy.

Jamie thinks it a great privilege to be allowed to put the forks, napkins and whatever else I may let him, on the table. Guy brings in wood, feeds the chickens, helps Alvin generally. He has been to school to-day. Built one snow "fort" Guy has wished he was in Augusta when I have been talking alone with him, but he seems happy and Grace is happy when I will let her read all she wishes. Jamie seems to be living very fast and is making the most he can of every day. Chancy is a happy little fellow, talks a great deal to "Gram-ma". Generally repeats the name.

I begin to want to go to Augusta, hope I shall be able to go down some time after the Legislature meets. I wonder if you will be home before Summer and when? We think Charlie will come first, if either of you can get away. I have never thought to tell you that I paid your tax before I left Augusta \$210.00. I had one in my name, returns from the Portland Bank \$32.00.

It is now getting late and I shall not get time to write to you, Dearest, in the morning. Mother is very well for her. Dell said he "ought to write to Charles." I wish I had sent a letter to you so you could have heard from us earlier. I think I have written you but one letter from Leeds before this one. Guy and Grace mailed letters to you last Saturday I think. I wrote the envelope and enclosed both the letters in it. I wish very much to hear again from you. Your letter went to Augusta first, so we got Charlies letter to Mother before we did yours. How happy we were when Capt Oscar Turner brought in Charlie's long letter. We expect a visit from Rowland & Ella next Friday, but only to remain here between the 'trains'. I keep writing but now I must stop. Give much love to Charlie.

As ever your own
Lizzie

2378 12/18/1864 *From:* Rowland [RB
Howard]

To: Dear Brother Charles
[CH Howard]

OOH-2327

Farmington

Source: Bowdoin

Farmington Dec. 18th 1864

Dear Brother Charles

I don't know as my recent letters sent to Nashville will ever reach you & I don't know where they will send this nor how but I mean to direct it near Savannah. Capt Duncans Dispatch from Otis was the first one published & the first news we had from Shermans Army except from Rebel Sources. Since then the papers have been full of rumors of a battle near Savannah & our hearts have been anxious & prayerful for you & Otis & Success.

We look for Dellie at Leeds next Sat. night to spend Christmas. He thinks business make it necessary for him to come. He will stay but a short time & then return to Albany. Miss Rosa Dean spent some time with him at our house before he went to A.

Frankie Sargent came home from a 10 days visit at Leeds last night. He says they are all well but "J" who is croupy. It seems their girl has gone & they are getting one as they can. I suppose I cannot go down till after the new year. I have so much Parish work to attend to.

Uncle Ensign has been to Lizzie to see about Otis buy the Old Farm. If it would make an agreeable & pleasant home for Mother it would be a good place but it is too far from neighbors & she has no attachments there at present. Lane is offered 3000\$ for it, I believe.

Ella could not or thought she could not endure Alice's sullen & insolent moods & slip-shod way of getting on any longer & her Mother got a good place for her in Bath in a Christian family -a Mr Gershorn Palmer. We hear that does pretty well so far, but was the whole day doing a small washing &c! Ella made her a new dress & repaired all her old ones & she went away well clothed, with a little money in the Savings Bank, but her advance in moral & mental character was lamentably small while with us.

We have no religious interest with us & nothing has been said about raising my Salary to conform to the times. If I could only accomplish something needful here -build a vestry, remodel & heat the M.J. & best of all - see another Revival I would willingly seek another field, but I hate to leave this one when everything has so much the aspect of failure. It is like closing a campaign without a victory. My chief supporter & good friend Mr A.H. Abbott has taken a new Episcopal wife from Canada (& the west subsequently).

Sarah is in Brooklyn, will not go west but return home soon after the 1st of Jan. Silas died in St Louis in Hospital in November. Perry is Stationed at Sandusky, O. Ella & Dadie are pretty well except had colds. Our Winter has closed in cold & snowy as ever.

I have preached twice & attended the 3d meeting as usual today. I received 10\$ from you which I have devoted to the cause of Missions.

Dec. 21, 1864

We have now a very encouraging dispatch from Sherman and rejoice & give thanks for your successful march and now look for the early fall of Savannah & if it be so closely invested. I don't see how the Rebel Garrison is to get away this time. Gen Thomas knocked Hood into a cocked hat!

We will look for you considerably if Savannah falls into our hands & the Army goes into winter quarters in that neighborhood. I will send very "Merry Christmas" & Happy New Year in this letter. Us are to have a little S.S. Festival the Monday evening following Christmas. They are having a magnificent Sanitary Fair in Bangor. We tried Davie six times yesterday for a picture but did not succeed at all. He is so grown and looks so boyish with his short hair I hardly think you would know him. I am writing to all our absent Church members & trying to get things ready for a proper commencement of the New Year, spiritually & otherwise.

Yr loving Bro.

Rowland

2379 12/21/1864 *From:* Rowland [RB
Howard]

To: Dear Sister Lizzie
[Howard]

OOH-2328

Farmington

Source: Bowdoin

[553]

Farmington
Dec 21 1864

Dear Sister Lizzie

Ella received your note by Frankie. We will hear from Otis so soon now I would neither do nor say anything about the farm. How good the news is from Gen Thomas & Gen Sherman! If Savannah is taken I hope we shall see Charles & perhaps Otis too before long. I expect they will have a bloody fight before the intrenchments and yet they may not. We were sorry to hear that you had to change girls & fear you will be troubled to get a permanent one.

I had a letter from Alice's new "Massa", Mr Palmer –up to the date of it she had behaved very well & they complained of nothing but slowness. That is "put on", for she is naturally pretty quick.

I hope Jamie is all over his croup by this time. The closing of one year & the opening of another gives me much additional labor. I am writing to all our absent Church members & sending Circulars about Father Rogers "Donation" Jan 2d to many others. Mr Abbott has not paid my note yet –if he continues to neglect it, I shall remind him of it. When he pays it I will send something to you. It was due Oct 1st but he is very forgetful.

I will preach a Christmas Sermon next Sab. And a New Years one on the following Sab. Ella & Dadie are both suffering from severe colds & I believe I have one coming on now. The cars have been late for two nights, but they bro't good news when they did come. We tried for Dadie's picture yesterday but did not succeed in keeping him still once.

Frank likes his School very well. We will not be down to Leeds next week nor probably week after. I attend an association the 3d of Jan. & must be at home to a childrens meeting on the afternoon of the following Sab. We will come as soon as we can & will be glad to see you at any time you will wish getting thro' in decent Season by the cars.

Ella joins me in sending much love to you, Mother & the children. We always like –long to hear from you, if it be but a single word. I suppose you will see Dellie Sat. night. Give my love to him & tell him we will be glad to see him if he has time while at home to visit us. If he cannot I must try to go to Leeds for a day & talk over business matters with him.

Yr. affectionate Brother
Rowland

2380 12/21/1864 *From:* W. J. Johnson

To: Dear Mrs [Lizzie] Howard

OOH-2329

Granite Natl Bk
Augusta

Source: Bowdoin

[554]

Granite Natl Bk
Augusta Dec 21 / 64

Dear Mrs Howard

I think you will find on reviewing your amount with this Bank, that you still have \$100 here.

Very truly yours
W. J. Johnson Cashier

2381 12/22/1864 *From:* Sarah B.F. Greble

To: My very dear Friend
[Lizzie Howard]

OOH-2330

Philadelphia

Source: Bowdoin

[552]

Philadelphia Dec 22nd /64

My very dear Friend

The summer months have flown quickly by, and I have again returned to my winter home, and altho' I have thought very often of you, and watched always daily for the name of your noble brave Husband still I have not sent you one line of love or of West Point news which I know you are always anxious to hear. I found the other day a little book which I thought would please Grace. Clara calls her "her little God-sister". I have been working a pair of rectangles for the Genl & wanted him to have them by Xmas, but now I think I will keep them until he goes thro' our city when he can have them. I feel very proud of them as they are the first pair I ever attempted to make, and they are for the bravest of our officers –morally as well as physically.

It seems a long long time since I have seen you and I long to see your little ones again, & the new little treasure to whom I have never been introduced. Kiss each one for me. I was detained at W.P. until two weeks since. Sister Clara Pennington had a little daughter born on the first day of December to be called Annie Estelle Pennington. Sister Mamie has been at School at Troy this winter. Father has been much troubled with his throat. Mother has been anxious and worried all summer. Brother John is still in the field on Genl Potter's staff. Col Pennington has charge of a brigade & is Col of the 3rd N. Jersey Cavalry. Col Leech my sister Hannah Greble's husband has been a prisoner since the early part of August. She has not heard from him for nearly four months & is expecting daily to be confined. Brother Edwin Greble went off with the hundred days men from here & was brought home at the end of the time very ill with typhoid fever. He is though now I thank God quite himself again. He behaved nobly, he refused the bounty, and gave his pay to our Union Refreshment saloon. Papa Greble went to Fortress Monroe a fortnight since & has gone off on Genl Butlers staff. We hope he will be home for Xmas –it will seem sad to be without him. I hope that Genl H. will be able to come home soon altho' he seem so busy & useful that I do not see how he can be spared.

Maggie Blunt is at Wilmington where Maj Blunt is now stationed. Mrs Benet is at our Frankford Arsenal. Mrs Mendall is again at West Point. So are the Balch's. Sam Benjamin is there and has Mrs Fry's cottage in which his Mother & Sisters are living with him. Mrs Henry Kingsbury has had Miss Jeannie Greys Cottage this summer. The Church's are as loveable & lovely as ever. These are very few of your old friends at W.P.

I went to Schenectady last June and spent three weeks with Clara Paige & we went together to Troy for three days & staid with the Willards at the Seminary. I also spend a week with Mrs Thomas Williams at her Father's home near Lake Mahopac back of Peekskill. Miss Blanche Berard has a School of the little girls at W.P. I have my hands full this winter –my Sunday School class has 182 children in it. The School at W.P. was doing nicely when I left. Dear good Genl Howard was the one who set that school going well. Gen. Andy Hoff is in N. York he with Annie and the two children came to see us last Summer. His wound will not disfigure him –it looks like the impression made by a pair of tight spectacles from the eye back to the ear. I hear that he suffers with his head –the injury may be internal.

I meant only to write a few lines for I am very busy preparing for Xmas. Good by dear friend, with the dearest love and the very best wishes of this holiest and happiness season of all the year believe me ever to be most lovingly your friend.

Sarah B.F. Greble

2382 12/23/1864 *From:* Rowland [RB
Howard]

To: Dear Sister Lizzie
[Howard]

OOH-2331

Farmington

Source: Bowdoin

[551]

Farmington Dec. 23, 1864

Dear Sister Lizzie

I want you to have a visit from Santa Claus at Mothers & fearing he might slight you, this cold weather & not get thro. The drifts, Ella & I send a few things for the Stockings. Ella sends the "Cross" with much love. It was cracked a little in making but we hope will not get broken on the way. It will do for the parlor mantle if no way can be devised of suspending it. Ella & I send the headdress for Mother & hope it will suit. Ella has made some candy bags for each of the children & we send a few nuts which you may portion off as you see fit. There is a portfolio (cheap!) for Guy & one for Grace, & I want them both to write me a letter on the paper enclosed. In Guys Portfolio are two little books, one for Jamie & one for Chancy. I would have a fire built in the parlor and each package of things put by itself & the doors fastened till after Breakfast & you may be Santa Claus.

Tell Guy I was sorry to miss his Birth Day & will try to be more thoughtful next time. If I don't find anything to send Dellie it will be, tell him, because he is too big! I got a letter from Charles yesterday dated the 13th. I hope Mother will send me hers as soon as she reads it. Mine was short & contains but little more probably than he wrote in her long letter. I hope you have heard from Otis too.

A Merry Christmas to you all! Our prayer meeting tonight was in the house where Issie Greenwood whom Mother may remember as taken sick in Portland lay dead. Her funeral will be on the Sab. Did Mother know that Mr Tarbox's little girl (Katie) died of Diptheria a week ago last Sat. after a sickness of only 5 days?

I expect a wedding & Funeral next Sab. So our cup is "mingled". But how thankful we ought to be for Otis & Charles.

Lovingly,
Rowland

2383 12/24/1864 *From:* E.B. Webb

To: My dear General [OO
Howard]

OOH-2332

Boston

Source: Bowdoin

[479]

Boston, Dec. 24, 1864

My dear General

How glad we were when your scout arrived down the river & communicated with the fleet. We followed you daily with our prayers, & yet we can hardly say "followed", for we did not know for a long time where you were, nor where you were going. Our Genls & our Government seem to have found out the secret of keeping their own Secrets. You just moved off beyond the circle of our horizon, into the unknown, & left us to wonder, to doubt, to believe, to guess. But, God be praised, you are out of the woods in the sense that we can see you, or hear you, or hear from you almost every day. How I shd like to have been with you on that unparalleled march - that is the making of some new history. I pray God to spare you to enjoy the pleasures & the rewards of it. It will be something bye & bye to have been, & to be, associated with Genl Sherman.

My letter in ansr. To your long & kind one, was a mere note, written on hearing the news of yr appointment to the Comd of the Army of the Tenn., & an expression of good wishes & of more anxiety than was needful perhaps. But Genl. It came pretty near, to have you thus jumped over Hooker - we know all about the correspondence between Sherman & <the> Govt - & made so prominent & so responsible too, & we began to feel as if we had some responsibility in the success of the Western, now, eastern, army, & of course felt, a good deal, probably, as you did. It comes over us now at times, after all your success over Hood, & all your success thro Georgia, "the Lord help our dear Genl. & guide him in all movements to a successful issue, & spare him, shielding him against the missiles of the enemy & against disease, & keep him simple, pure, devoted as ever." It is all the utterance of personal affection, dear Genl., & expressed in one good, hearty, emphatic, "God bless you".

And now when you have made a few more marches, captured Savannah, Charleston, Wilmington & done a few other little things of that sort, you may like a change perhaps, not a rest, because such work requires no exertion - you go right along of course, same as <the> stars in their marches, so just telegraph your little wife to mee you at my house in Boston, No 638 Tremont St & come right along. Your room is ready, & all things. We understand she is with your Mother, & so can leave on such a summons. Bring any of the children, or all of them, if you like. Suit yrselves, & we are suited. Thereof make return, & fail not to present yourself & yrs. Give my love to your Brother, Charles, "Major" or whatever, & to Whittlesey, if he is with you & tell them my door is open to them at any time for an hour or a week.

Fraternally,
E.B. Webb [Edwin B. Webb, D.D.]

My wife wld send kind messages, as well as join me in all this, if she knew of this writing. I shall be delighted to receive a line or a letter when other cares will permit.

2384 12/24/1864 *From:* Cameron F. McRae *To:* General [OO Howard]

OOH-2333

St John's Church
Savannah

Source: Bowdoin

[199]

General,

I am the Pastor of St John's Church in this city.

I am assured by a gentleman who conversed with General Sherman on the subject that the authorities now in command here, will not dictate the terms on which I will be permitted to celebrate Divine Worship, but that I will be allowed to conduct it according to the dictates of my own conscience. It has, of course, been my custom to use the prayer for the President of the Confederate States. I am unwilling to do anything offensive to those in authority, & propose to omit the prayer for Civil rulers. But bearing in mind the painful scenes that have occurred in other Episcopal Churches, may I ask you to give me the assurance that proper precautions will be taken to prevent their recurrence here; that my people may come to God's house without fear, & unite with you in the celebration of His nativity who was emphatically, "the Prince of Peace".

Very respectfully,
Your obedient Servant,
Cameron F. McRae

Savannah,
Dec. 24th 1864

2385 12/24/1864 *From:* C B Reese

To: Capt Sam L. Taggart

OOH-2334

Source: Bowdoin

Head Quarters Dept of
Tenn
Engineer Office
Savannah Ga

A.A. Genl Dept Tenn

[178]

Head Quarters Dept of Tenn
Engineer Office
Savannah Ga Dec 24th 1864

Capt Sam L. Taggart
A.A. Genl Dept Tenn

I have the honor to submit the following brief report of Engineering Operations of this Army since leaving Atlanta Ga Nov 15th 1864

The duties of the Corps and Division Engineers have been mostly with their Command Div. Engr where there have been any have done little else than to superintend the Repair of Roads; Capts Kossak and Klostermann officers of the 17th and 15th Corps have done considerable reconnoitering and have attended to the surveys of the route pursued by their respective Commands. All of these officers have been under the immediate Command of their Corps & Div Commanders.

A Bridge train of about 600 feet Canvass Boats, accompanied the Army and the mass of the labor of the Engr Regt. "(1st M Vol Lt Col Tweeddale Comdg)" has been with this: Capt Buzzard 1st M. Engr with his Company and a Company of the 14th Wis. "(in all about 170 men)" Commanded this train upon starting upon the Campaign. These were all of the men that had received instruction in the Bridge drill, and that from actual service with it before the recent march across the State of Georgia.

At a subsequent day "(Nov 23d at Gordon)" the whole Engr Regt was put on this duty, and it and the Pontoon Train divided into two Sections and one assigned to each Corps.

Bridges were laid as follows.

On the 18th at Nutting Factory across the Ocmulgee two bridges each about 240 ft in length, the first one was laid in a little over two hours after the arrival of the Head of the Train on the river bank. These bridges were dismantled on the 20th. The last removed bed taken from the river and loaded for the march in an hour and twenty minutes, Capt Buzzard had charge of this dismantling.

Both sections were laid across the Oconee at Balls Ferry on the 26th and taken up after the passage of the Army on the 27th.

The 2nd Section 17th Corps was laid across the Ogeechee apposite station 9 1/4 for the passage of that Corp on the 30th inst.

The 1st Section 15th Corps was laid across the Ogeechee at points opposite stations 7 1/2 on the 2nd Dec. and A 2d (or Jenek's bridge)" on the 4th Dec. both these for the purpose of throwing across small bodies of the 15th Corps as a demonstration or to Communicate with the left Column of the Army.

A part of the 1st Section 15th Corps Maj Hill Comdg bridged the Canoochee on the 9th Dec for the purpose of crossing Genl Hazens Command to the Gulf R.R. and again on the 1th for the passage of Genl Kilpatrick's Cavalry.

The 2nd Section 17th Corps stretched their bridge across the Ogeechee at Dillons Ferry just above the Canal on the 9th Dec upon which the 15th Corps crossed, this remaining down until the 18th inst.

The average length of the bridges across the Oconee and Ogeechee rivers, was 220 feet.

There being but a small number of drilled men on duty with the Train I considered its management satisfactory and that the bridge was laid with as much celerity and with as few accidents as possible.

I will speak of the Repair of Kings Bridge over the Ogeechee 3/4 of a mile above the R.R. crossing.

This Bridge is of Trestle and about 5 or 6 hundred feet of it in the centre had been destroyed, the flooring all of the stringers and the Caps were gone, the Trestle legs were standing. The bays were 30 feet in length requiring heavy stringers.

Orders were given by the Comdg Genl for the repair of this bridge on the evening of the 10th Dec.

I assigned to Lt Col Tweeddale the work of Repair, and to Lieut Stickney the task of getting the material; work was fairly begun at noon on the 11th, and at daylight on the 13th it crossed Genl Hazens Div to take Fort McAllister.

After the partial investment of the City the Corps Engineers were generally busy in constructing offensive batteries and assisting to the complete investment of the City. I was engaged several days in making important reconnaissances, once with the Comdg Genl to Vernon River to examine the enemys left flank, and there with Capt Poe Chf Engr M.D.M. to establish a line of works covering a considerable area about Fort McAllister.

I am very Respectfully
Your Obedient Servt
C B Reese
Capt of Engrs
Chf Engr D.T.

2386 12/24/1864 *From:* C.H. Asmussen

To: Major Genl. O.O. Howard

OOH-2335

Savannah, Ga

Comdg Right Wing
Army of Georgia.

Source: Bowdoin

[177]

Savannah, Ga, Decbr 24 /64

General,

I called yesterday to see you, but did not find you at home. I will therefore briefly state my business.

You are of course aware, that I received my appointment as Major and Asst Adj Genl U.S. Vols, but you know at the same time that I must be confirmed by the Senate.

I would ask you therefore, General, to use your influence with your friends and particularly with Hon. H. Wilson from Mass, chairman of the military committee and see me out of the woods.

Thanking you, General, beforehand for any act in your power you may do on my behalf.

I remain your
most obedt. Servt.
C.H. Asmussen
Lt Col Asst <> Gen
20 A.C.

Major Genl. O.O. Howard
Comdg Right Wing
Army of Georgia.

[Written on the last page]
Asmussen, C. H.
Lt. Col. & A.I. G.
Savannah Dec 24 / 64

2387 12/24/1864 *From:* Thomas C. Upham

To: Major Gen. [OO] Howard

OOH-2336

New York

Source: Bowdoin

[175]

New York, Dec. 24, 1864

Major Gen. Howard,
Dear Sir,

My nephew, Rev. N.L. Upham, Chaplain in the Army, proposes to resign his office. The reason is, the state of his wife's health. I understand that her health is enfeebled, & that she is suffering much. I hope his application, which is a trying one to him, will meet with your favorable consideration, if it can be done consistently with honor & the good of the country's service. I am confident, that there is a real & urgent foundation for his request.

I rejoice with you in the brightening prospects of the nation, & in the kind Providence, which has watched over yourself personally.

My kind remembrance to Prof. Whittlesey. Rev. Mr Sewall of Lynn takes his place for the present.

Most respectfully & sincerely yrs
Thomas C. Upham

2388 12/24/1864 *From:* J.T. Conklin

To: Capt. S. L. Taggart

OOH-2337

Source: Bowdoin

Head-Quarters Dep't
and Army of the
Tennessee
Savannah, Ga

A.A. Genl Deptmt & Army of
the Tenn.

[350]

Head-Quarters Dep't and Army of the Tennessee
Savannah, Ga Dec 24th 1864

Capt. S. L. Taggart
A.A. Genl Deptmt & Army of the Tenn.
Capt.

I have the honor to report, that in obedience to S. F. O. No 213. I have examined the shores of Wilmington River from Fort Barton to Thunder-bolt and the Kiddoway River (Burnside) at Wimberly and find as follows:

At Fort Barton there is a small Pier, but only Five feet and ten inches of water at low tide, and the banks of the River at that point and in the vicinity are of such a nature that it would require a great deal of labor to make a landing. The same is the case at Bona-Venture. At Thunder-bolt the banks are good, and the channel of the River is close to the shore, so that there are twelve feet of water, within twenty five feet of the land. At Wimberly the ground is very marshy and water scant. I have not yet visited Beau-lieu but shall do so on Monday. I am informed however that there are good landings in that vicinity.

I am Captain very respectfully
Your Obedt. Servt.
J.T. Conklin Col and Q.M.

2389 12/25/1864 *From:* Grace [Howard]

To: My Dear Papa [OO
Howard]

OOH-2338

Leeds

Source: Bowdoin

[60]

Leeds, Dec 25 Christmas 1864

My Dear Papa

It is Christmas in the afternoon. We have all had a great many presents from Santa clause. Jamie has had two books and Chancy Guy and I have all had one My books name is Anna on passages from home life. One of Jamies books is named Little bo peep. The other is the scripture Alphabet and guess what Uncle Rowland sent me? A portfolio and I am writing in it and Guy is writing in his. Wont you come home at Leeds this winter with Uncle Charley. Uncle Dell came home last Friday. He and guy and Mamma went to church today and I and Jamie and Grandma staid at home at half past eleven I put Chancy to sleep but before I put him to sleep I gave him his milk and water and cracker. He slept until half past twelve.

Monday morning

Mamma came home at half past one from church. I hope you and Uncle Charley are well? Jamie sends a kiss to you. And I send a lotts of kisses to you and Uncle Charley. Uncle Rowland sent the presents in a valise. There was a box. All of our presents came in it. Jamie has got the box now. We took off the pieces of leather that held the cover on all but two Jamie has got it now for his trunk mamma sens double love to you, and the same to Uncle Charley. Uncle Rowland sent me some envelopes and writing papers and I am writing your letter on it now. We have been out here at Leeds nearly a month. I wish you a happy new year I cant wish you a merry christmas but I can say I hope you have had one. Jamie has got for his birthday present a set of ten pins and a little hatchet the ten pins were my present the hatchet Guys. And Mamma gave Jamie some candy and nuts. I have got some blotting paper and two pockets in my portfolio.

Goodbye from Grace
goodbye

2390 12/26/1864 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

To: Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-2339

Source: Bowdoin

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

[550]

Head-Quarters Department and Army of the Tennessee,
Savannah Ga. Dec. 26th 1864

Dearest

I have now been in the vicinity of this beautiful city & in it since the 21st inst. I am troubled that I do not hear from you. I hav'nt had a letter since I have been here and I am feeling pretty bad about it, but I think my letters have gone towards Nashville, where I had a reserve Head Quarters. I have heard through Capt. Gilbreth's letters that you have gone to Leeds and are with mother for the winter. The weather is so beautiful here that it is hard to realize the thermometer down to zero with you and when I think of it I am consoled with the thought that Charles & I did not freeze up in our babyhood. I want to see the loving faces, your & the children's so much that I am really homesick. I went to General Sherman & told him, "Now let me off. I don't ask but two days at home." He said "General I would give a million of dollars if I had it to be with my children, would you do more than that". I told him I should say nothing more, and I have given up for the present. We may get to some place before spring, when the operations will admit of my going.

How is mother this winter. She cannot help enjoying your stay & that of the children, and I hope she is very happy. I am very eager to hear all about you.

We find Savannah a delightful city, and everything is very orderly. There are some misdeeds committed but probably as few if not fewer than in the days of the dirk and the bowie knife.

I went to Rev. Mr. McRae's Epis. Ch. Yesterday with Chas. Capt Beebe and Mr Marshall - staid with his sister to the communion, and enjoyed the day exceedingly. These Marshalls are two young men Theodore & George who formerly went to school with me in Hallowell. Theodore I knew very well. He had amassed a large fortune, had a wife & child, but both are dead. George married a Miss <Pred> of Augusta, Me. His wife has been here about five years ago & their sister about four.

Gen. Hardee's brother met me & presented a letter from Gen. Hardee. He says Anna has gone to Charleston. Miss Dummett is in Florida with the other children. I hear the Gen's young wife is not beautiful, but rich. Madam G.W. Smith is here. I have not been in to see her yet & don't think I shall.

I am living in the house of an old English consul; a magnificent establishment. Charles may go home. I think I shall send him to Washington on duty & possibly home. I have much I would like to write to Guy, Grace, Jamie & Chancy. I brot in a flock of little children last night -seven little girls & boys & had a nice time with Carrie <Einstein> an accomplished little girl 10 yrs old promised to come & play for me on my piano some time. Thamy was very sweet but wouldn't give me a kiss - "Not allowed to kiss people". So I must go home to get sweet kisses.

God bless you darling & all the rest.

Lovingly
Otis