
2490 4/15/1865 *From:* Lizzie [Howard]

To: Dearest [OO Howard]

OOH-2429

Leeds

Source: Bowdoin

[76]

Leeds April 15th 1865

Dearest

What a sad day has come upon our dear country and how many sorrowing hearts there are to-night all over our stricken land caused by the sudden death of our beloved President. Who can fill his place? And now Sec Seward is reported gone; the two to-gether seem an irreparable loss. God has permitted this great calamity is all we can say. He can lift the dark cloud and show us its silver lining. Oh! That he may do so.

I feel as if I wanted to go to you to be with you. I ought not to have but I cannot help having increased anxiety for you. You are I know in the hands of God and striving to do His will. May he in mercy guard you and all others in position of trust and responsibility at this time. Pres. Johnson seems like a stranger, and he cannot at once take the place, if ever, of Pres. Lincoln in the hearts of the people. I will not dwell on this longer but it comes very near to my heart, dearest, when I think of you as a general officer in the southern states and now advancing to meet the army of this barbarous enemy. You are very precious to us as you well know. It is too bad I could not have seen you of late. I do not get over the feeling of regret at all. You said you would not dare telegraph me again to come to you. But I think you were not really in earnest, at least I do not like to think so. I firmly believe if you should again send, I should leave everything whatever the circumstances, and start.

Sunday Noon. I will devote what time I can to you. Mother has gone with Wash to attend the funeral of a very old lady near the Center I have forgotten the name.

Chancy has just gone to sleep. Guy is reading "he Tanner boy or the life of Gen Grant." Jamie feels the restraint of Sunday a little, and asks "if little boys can't <leave> on their things and only go out in the word house sundays." Since then I have been reading little Sunday stories and be became quite interested and asked many questions. Wants to go back to "gusta" and go to Mr. Kenzies church. Grace is still in Farmington. I shall go there soon for a day or two. The spring terms of Guy's school begins two weeks from to-morrow and if he goes at all he ought to go the first day.

Now that it is decided that I am not to go to you, I must think about getting back to Augusta. I shall be very sorry to leave Mother here alone. May be I shall not keep house much this summer but go back and forth many times. I will do what I and all the rest think is for the best. I heard about Julia when at Augusta. She is doing very well. I should be glad to hear of your coming here any day you could be spared by Gen. Sherman.

Dellie will be here by the first of June. I am now writing in the evening and it is nearly ten o'clock so I will not write much longer. Capt. Gilbreth leaves Augusta to-morrow morning for Goldsboro for the 'front'. I wonder where he will find you. I don't think I have any thing more I ought to tell you but much I would like to tell you, but is too late to-night. I send your letters to Ft Monroe now but I do not see the objet of having all letters for Shermans army left so far from you. Hoping to open communications via Danville maybe. I hope everything will move on as usual and for the best good of the country. I brought your reports and map from Augusta for Mother. Mother is very much pleased with them. I think it a great and invaluable present. When you come home that will be the best present of all.

With best love, your own
Lizzie

2491 4/16/1865

From: A. B. Dyer
Brig Genl
Chief of Ordnce
Ordnance Office
War Department
Washington

To: Major Genl O.O. Howard

OOH-2430

Source: Bowdoin

Comdg &c
Via Newbern
N.C.

[77]

Ordnance Office
War Department
Washington April 16th 1865

My dear General,

Upon my return to this city a few days since I found your letter of the 29th ult.

I wish to have Captain Buell relieved from duty with your army as soon as it can be done without detriment to the public service, and will take steps to have him replaced by another officer of my Dept very soon.

If you can dispense with his services before an Ordnance officer can be sent to relieve him, I shall be glad to have him ordered to report in person to me.

Captain Mordecai is senior Ordnance officer with Genl Thomas, and I regret that I cannot send him to you.

I hope however to send an officer who will be entirely acceptable to you professionally and personally.

Respectfully
Yr Obdt Servt
A. B. Dyer
Brig Genl
Chief of Ordnce

Major Genl O.O. Howard
Comdg &c
Via Newbern
N.C.

2492 4/17/1865 *From:* R.H. Gilmore

To: My dear brother [OO
Howard]

OOH-2431

Albany N.Y.

Source: Bowdoin

[78]

Albany N.Y. April 17, 1865

My dear brother:

I have commenced this letter to you with some misgivings, for I am going to ask of you a favor which I never had occasion to ask before, viz a loan of money. An officer in the field is usually among the last to have much money about him, but I hope that when this reaches you, you will be particularly well supplied. Mother has lent me all the money she has and is now actually borrowing money of Lizzie until she can get her pay for the ship timber sent to Bath.

I am now in debt here over \$30 and as I am out of funds, I am a burden to my friends. I can offer you no security except an And. R.R. Bond. The chances for my success alone constitute the security. If I live and succeed the amount will be refunded with interest. If I should not live your chances for compensation would be poor. I will give my note on demand or on time and send it either to you or Lizzie. I would be glad of \$120, but if I had \$100, I could make it serve me well. I have put myself in debt to mother \$250 already and she has use for all the money she can now get.

You will pardon me, my brother, for making this request and I trust if you have not the money by you, you will not hesitate to say so. I feel a reluctance to borrow this of a stranger.

The awful news of the murder of the President has created a profound gloom all over the land. Such a shock was never before felt. We, however, feel that having trusted, so far, to an arm of flesh, we must now rely upon the strong arm of God who will never desert the cause of right.

In great haste
Your Affectionate Brother
R.H. Gilmore

2493 4/17/1865 *From:* OO Howard

To: My dear mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-2432

Source: Bowdoin

Head-Quarters
Department and Army
of the Tennessee,
Raleigh N.C.

[98]

Head-Quarters Department and Army of the Tennessee,
Raleigh N.C. April 17th 1865.

My dear mother,

You have probably seen by the papers before this time that we are in Raleigh. I would give you a little description of our campaign and dwell upon our bright prospect of peace, were it not that my whole mind and heart keeps returning to the terrible news that has just reached us. I cannot realize it, yet it comes so straight I cannot doubt it. President Lincoln has been everything to the nation, and the nation will never cease to do him honor. But to me personally he has been a friend, though dealing with thousands, he never forgot me after our first interview. When at Savannah, the Secretary of War took my hand in both his and assured me in the kindest manner of the Presidents sincere regard and appreciation of my services. I anticipated a real pleasure in serving under his administration after the war was over cherishing the same complete confidence in Mr Lincoln that I would in my own father and knowing that he would sustain me in every right course. The prospect of peace and home had filled all hearts with enthusiasm and everybody was generous; but the revulsion will be sudden and overwhelming. I am afraid of the spirit it may awaken when it is known that men have been set on foot to murder those so much beloved and trusted as Lincoln, Seward, Grant, Sherman and others. I can only say of these blind fools "God forgive them for they know not what they do."

Give much love to all around you. It wont be many days before I will be amongst you. I hope your health is good and you are enjoying the society of Lizzie and the children very much. I was disappointed in not seeing her, but now see that it was all for the best. I have not heard from Charles since he left for Beaufort. The more I can hear about yourself, Lizzie, the children, Wash, the pony, that is, about home people and home matters, the less trying is the separation. God bless you all.

Affectionately yr son
OO Howard

[Note: except for the signature, this letter was written by someone else.]

2494 4/18/1865 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

To: Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-2433

Source: Bowdoin

Head-Quarters
Department and Army
of the Tennessee
Raleigh N.C.

[592]

Head-Quarters Department and Army of the Tennessee
Raleigh N.C. Apr. 18th 1865.

Dearest,

I dictated a letter to Mother yesterday, as I could write so much faster that way, Harry Stinson acting as amanuensis, but I don't think one could write to his wife by dictation unless some terrible necessity should impel him. Yesterday the dreadful news came to us of the death of our beloved president. He has sealed his great work with his life. The grief is almost universal and completely depressing amongst the officers. I have seen more than one General officer shed tears in speaking of Mr Lincoln. But he has gone to his reward. Would God he might have lived to enjoy in this life the fruits of his faithful labor.

Gen. Sherman and Johnston met yesterday between the lines to arrange terms of settlement. They did not quite agree and I am afraid that Johnston cannot sufficiently control his subordinates to effect the terms most likely to lead to peace, but I believe his disposition is good and that he will do the best he can.

It seems, darling, almost too much that the end is so near and the prospect so clear of getting through with our hard task, but it is true, yet oh! How our Father allows the madmen to temper our rejoicing. I do hope Mr Seward may live to see the end and to help us in our foreign relations, for we have not an able or better diplomat. I think now we shall be most likely to march to Richmond if Johnston capitulates and it will probably be two months before I can get home.

Charles says I have been applied for to command the department of the South. I hardly know whether I want it or not. Perhaps it is a field of peculiar controversy when a steady hand might have a good effect. The change from a system of slavery to freedom needs very judicious measures particularly in that department.

I am glad now you did not start for New Berne, as I could have seen you but a very few days & as the prospect of a longer visit is so near.

Maj Whittlesey is quite ill and I am afraid will have a hard time, a sort of dysentery.

Give abundance of love to all the children and heart full to yourself. May God keep you.

Lovingly
Otis

2495 4/22/1865 *From:* C.H. Howard

To: My dear brother [OO
Howard]

OOH-2434

Camp 128th U.S.C. Infy
Beaufort S.C.

Source: Bowdoin

[79, 80, 81]

Camp 128th U.S.C. Infy
Beaufort S.C.
April 22 1865

My dear brother,

Well settled with my new Regiment. I know you will be interested to hear how I find matters. No steamer was going South from Ft Monroe, so I had to proceed via Baltimore to New York. I attended church part of Sunday in Baltimore and at night took the cars arriving in N.Y. about 6 a.m. Went immediately to the Qr. Mr. who told me no steamer would go to Port Royal or Charleston before the following Saturday. I was greatly disappointed and decided to go home to Maine meanwhile.

But hearing of an excursion steamer ("Oceanus") going to Charleston I hastened to the dock. Found it was a private party, chiefly from Brooklyn, that all the tickets had been engaged long before hand. It was now half past 11 a.m. & the Oceanus was to sail at 12 M. Finally I saw one of the Committee of Arrangements and succeeded in getting passage by paying for it.

It was a splendid boad, built however for running on the sound and not quite so steady as the ocean steamers generally. We had fine weather and I was not a particle sick. The company was very agreeable. Rev. Theodore Cuyler who has written such excellent articles in the Independent was one whose acquaintance I was pleased to form. He wished me to tell you that though he had never seen you he felt the greatest sympathy for you and had often alluded to you in his sermons and Church meetings. There were many agreeable ladies. We had speaking every evening, generally closing with prayer. Of course every one was jubilant over the news received in N.Y. the morning we left - of Lee's surrender. We had a Band on board of high order - a good pious etc. etc.

Reached Charleston 13th inst, bringing to this Department the first new of Lee's surrender. The anniversary of the first blood of the Rebellion at Charleston brought the news of the finishing stroke by the U.S. forces. Of course Charleston was a gay place. The celebration at Sumpter you will have seen described in the papers. It was a complete success.

I hope you will have opportunity to read Beecher's oration. Maj. Gen. Anderson seemed like a good Christian in all he said & did. There was a great meeting of the Colored people next morning. I was much gratified in listening to George Thompson of England. He is a powerful orator, one of the best it has ever been my fortune to hear.

I got somewhat acquainted with him and with Theodore Tilton Editor of N.Y. Independent who is a very promising young man bidding fair to make a second Wendell Phillips.

Wm Lloyd Garrison spoke well, with a fatherly and Christian spirit, quoting much scripture. He appears like a pure and upright man. Henry Wilson was very earnest & his speech was calculated to do good. The house was crowded and the people full of enthusiasm. Not half could get into the building so another meeting was held upon the green. Whenever President Lincoln's name was mentioned there would be a perfect storm of applause, unbounded. I never saw anything equal to it. What a blessing to have one's name so embalmed in the hearts of a poor oppressed race, now beginning to know something of freedom!

I reached Beaufort on Sunday night, having services on the boat on the way down. Lt. Col. Beebe met me at the dock, seeming much pleased to have me back.

Every report about the Regiment had been good. It is full to the maximum - 986 men, and present in Camp already 26 officers. The camp looks neat. I have been here a week nearly. Drill at battalion drill once a day. I

assure you I am delighted with the proficiency of the men in military matters, with Col. Beebe's previous arrangements and work and the prospect of making a first class Regiments.

The news of our great national calamity, in the death of President Lincoln, cast a dark cloud over our spirits. It came on Tuesday. The distinguished visitors from Charleston were here and were to speak. Gen. Saxton had invited me to <move [CHECK ORIGINAL - right edge of page 4], the meeting to be upon the Common. But the sorrowful tidings reached us just before the appointed hour and everything like public meetings or rejoicings came to an end spontaneously. The visitors did not every stay to take their dinner which was in readiness but left for Port Royal & thence for the north that night. Nothing of this Rebellion has so filled my heart with sorrow. The loss seemed so irreparable, so unexpected and so terrible in the manner of its occurrence. Then so many forebodings for the rule of Johnson. But I felt that iw as in the right place and that my experience of four years had not been lost, that the Army's mission was not yet, perhaps, over, and that we (of the Army) had learned in this War how to deal with traitors. I do not think it was a feeling of vindictiveness that took possession of my heart but with the great sorrow came a determination to push to the very wall the remnant of this Rebellion in executing, as I feel, the holy justice of Almighty God.

There was very little light or relief to my heart until yesterday when at the close of my battalion drill I learned of the crowning success of our (Sherman's) Army and of the fall of Mobile & Montgomery. This is truly something to be thankful for and I was thrilled with gladness at so great results.

Gen. Saxton talked with Wilson & Beecher (who (the latter) also was here as a sort of inspector & agent of the Sec'y of War) about your assignment to this Dept. There is a talk, however, of offering you the bureau at Washington (Colored). I did not think you would like this, and of course felt a selfish interest in having you come down here where I cold see you occasionally & above all I have felt that something great & good might be accomplished by you here. Gillmore came near breaking up the colored people's meeting in Charleston. Did not attend it.

The drum sounds for early morning drill (Squad) and I will superintend it at 7 a.m. I rise earlier than I used to, you observe. The climate seems very pleasant - good breeze almost every day. Rev. Mr. Peck conducted prayers a Dress Parade for me night before last, sends his respects to you. The two young men, Quimby & Bedell, got left in N.Y. & I expected them on the Fulton. Cant conceive why then did nto come. Most of my officers had to be appointed here. I fear it is too late to get a Regiment for Maj. Whittlesey at present unless he can raise one in North Carolina which Gen. Saxton would like. Wish you might take Lizzie & make an excursion to this Department next month or at some time. Gen. Saxton would like very much to have Maj. W. take a Regt.

Your loving brother
C.H. Howard

P.S.

Beebe has received this order relieving him from duty on the staff. We were disappointed that no compliment was made to him in that order, perhaps you did not dictate it. C.H.H.

2496 4/26/1865 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

To: Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-2435

Source: Bowdoin

Head-Quarters
Department and Army
of the Tennessee
Raleigh N.C.

Head-Quarters Department and Army of the Tennessee
Raleigh N.C. Apr 26 1865

Dearest,

Gen. Sherman's terms were not approved at Washington. I go with the Gen. to meet Johnston today and expect other terms will be arranged.

I have just re-read your letter of the 14th and feel sorry that I grieved you about telegraphing. I doubt not I shall telegraph again in an emergency, but do you think wives obey orders as well as soldiers?

Gen. Grant came back with Maj. Hitchcock (Sherman's messenger to Washington) was present at the review of the 17th Corps day before yesterday and yesterday he visited & rode amongst the Corps of the 15th. The men received him with great enthusiasm.

I cannot get over the effect of the death of Mr Lincoln - even the people here believe they have passed into severer hands, and have a sort of appreciation of the fact that they have lost a friend and not an enemy.

I must now go to breakfast preparatory to my journey. I received the photos, and am thankful, but hav'nt gotten Chancy's. I sent you money by express to Augusta. Much love to Mother & the children. I shall probably not get home before July. God bless you.

Lovingly,
Otis

2497 4/26/1865 *From:* C.H. Howard

To: My dear brother [OO
Howard]

OOH-2436

Camp 128th U.S.C.I.
Beaufort S.C.

Source: Bowdoin

[82, 83]

Camp 128th U.S.C.I.
Beaufort S.C.
April 26 1865

My dear brother

I have a few moments this morning before the Drill which begins at 7 a.m. We have heard of the surrender of Johnson's Army to Sherman but seen no newspapers yet. It came (the news) by an officer of Gillmore's staff. I hope you will write me about it all. I imagine you may now be on your way to Maine. There could certainly be nothing to prevent.

I am much pleased with my Regiment. Have not yet got those officers asked for from our Army & the Army of the Potomac. Even those two young men Quimby & Bedoll have not yet arrived & I do not understand it at all. There was no Govt boat coming & I left them in the morning with understanding that I should go to Maine & return to take the Fulton the next Saturday. This was Monday. I directed them to take passage on the Fulton Saturday whether I arrived or not. A few moments after parting from them I learned of the excursion boat "Oceanus" just about to sail. I ran down to the dock and just had time to get on board. I wrote to Capt Stinson the Quarter Master relating to the two young men, fearing their papers might not be adequate. They had your order for transportation to Beaufort and a Pass from me for New York until the leaving of the Fulton. They may have been crowded out from that boat and may come on the next.

One principal thing I had in mind in writing this morning was to ask if it were not possible for you to let me and Lt. Col. Beebe have two of your horses - the mare that I sold you for me, and your other fancy Chestnut-bay horse for Beebe. I find I have to pay \$400 here for horses not so good nor so handsome as that mare, and Beebe has always had a great desire to get the other horse. I thought perhaps a boat might be coming or obtained by you from Wilmington or Morehead City and that possibly if the war is over you would not care to retain these horses. I suppose it would be too great an expense to take them home.

I have now engaged the use of a good horse for the remainder of this month.

I found that General Saxton had started two other Regiments here & at Charleston and had engaged to give Briant of Maine a third if it could be raised. So I fear there is little chance for Major Whittlesey at present. Gen. S. does not seem to have any hopes of getting up the Corps now.

There is some intimation that he (Saxton) will have command of everything down here, i.e. the Department, but I doubt it much and he says he would prefer for you to have it. But I think I wrote you that there was talk of putting you at the head of the Colored Bureau at Washington. I told Gen. Saxton I did not believe you would like it & doubted much if you would accept it. I have a greater detestation of Washington than ever before now, since the murder of President Lincoln.

If this reaches you in Maine give much love to all your dear family & to Mother.

I go out to superintend the company drill now. The social privileges down here are not very extensive but I trust I may be made the means of doing some good. I have a hospital tent pitched and a school 3 hours a day for my N.C. officers - two colored teachers from the north - teaching them to read and write. My tent is double & has a good floor. Shall be very comfortable in this respect.

Your affectionate brother
C.H. Howard

2498 4/27/1865 *From:* Jas. K. McCullough *To:* Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-2437

Burlington Iowa

Source: Bowdoin

[84, 85]

Burlington Iowa Apr 27th 1865

Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard
Dear Gen.

You may think it strange to get a letter from an entire stranger and one of whom you have never heard. My attention was first called to you at the battle of Chancellorsville when you commanded the 11th Corps, under Maj. Gen Hooker again at Gettysburg Penn. And again by your manly & Christian address before the U.S.C.C. at Phil on the occasion of its anniversary. Your sterling qualities as a Soldier, your goodness of Heart, your noble actions and manly bareing on all occasions, led me to name our son for you. Allow me to say, that only your trust in God led us to so name our son.

The country will never forget the "Christian Gen" O.O. Howard, that is not ashamed of Jesus!! Let me assure you that you will live forever in the hearts of the Christian people of this nation. Your name is engraved on every loyal heart!

God bless you and your namesake is all I can ask. If consistant with your time and duties and you are so inclined we would be glad to read a letter from your pen.

Your truly
Jas. K. McCullough

Howard is 16 months old.

[Written on the last page in another hand.]

Burlington, Iowa Apr 27 65

McCullough, Jas.K.

States that he has name his child, 16 mos. Old after Gen. Howard
Answered.

2499 4/27/1865 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

To: Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-2439

Source: Bowdoin

Head-Quarters
Department and Army
of the Tennessee,
Raleigh N.C.

[601]

Head-Quarters Department and Army of the Tennessee,
Raleigh N.C. Apr. 27th 1865

Dearest

I am now just starting with my Army northward expect to reach Petersburg by the 19th of next month. If you can arrange matters so as to leave home with two children, say Guy & Jamie or Gracie & Chancy and meet me in Washington about the first of June I shall be most happy.

Since I have been here in Raleigh I have been entertained by Mr & Mrs R.S. Tucker, people young like you & me. I have been treated with the most marked conviviality and have acquired a great friendship for them. Mrs Tucker has three beautiful little girls. Maggie is like Gracie a year ago. She has a little niece the age of Guy the other children correspond in age to Jamie & Chancy. They have a beautiful home tasty grounds with walks & flowers. Gen. Hardee staid here just before we entered with wife & Miss Anna. Miss Anna wrote me this morning from Hillsboro. She says Willie (16 yrs old) was killed or mortally wounded at the battle of Bentonville. He died at the house of a Mr Kirkland and she besought me for protection for her friends, recalling old times.

There is no more war. I am deeply sorry for the abuse Gen. Sherman is getting at the hands of the press. He meant right & the reasons for offering generous terms are not rightly set forth. How <wrong> it is to impute wrong motives. He has now gone to Charleston & will meet us at Petersburg or Richmond. I expect to reach Washington by the last of May. I have'nt the remotest notion of what will be done with me after my army shall have been mustered out of the Service. My great objection to the Army is - "no home" or rather a moveable one.

I feel very badly about your working so hard, drudging along. Is it possible that money will not hire servants? I don't want you to wear out, my darling. Give much love to Guy, Gracie, Jamie & Chancy & hasten the time when I shall see you all & be with you. I hardly realize that there is no more war. Mrs Tucker wanted you to come here. It would have been delightful to you here, while peace was drawing. Oh how much we should be thankful to God for his blessings. With a loving husband's love for you. Should you happen to be at Leeds, give much love to Mother.

Aff.
Otis