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Civil War Studies on Martha's Vineyard

An Interactive Qualifying Project Report

submitted to the faculty of

Worcester Polytechnic Institute

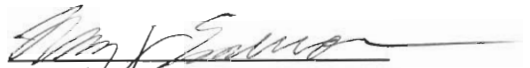
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Degree of Bachelor of Science

By


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In conjunction with the

Martha's Vineyard Historical Society

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Approved:


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Abstract

Martha's Vineyard was a significant source of aid to the Union during the United States Civil War. Working with the Martha's Vineyard Historical Society, the group examined Bellum artifacts, transcribed letters from an Edgartown soldier, and provided suggestions for a future exhibit regarding Martha's Vineyard's participation in the Civil War. From this work, the people of the present will more easily see the role played by Martha's Vineyard in the largest war to take place on the North American continent.

Acknowledgements

We would like to thank all the people who have helped us in the completion of this project. These individuals willingly provided their time and knowledge, which proved invaluable to us. From the Martha's Vineyard Historical Society, we would like to thank Mrs. Jill Bouck, curator of the Vineyard Museum, Mr. Arthur Railton, editor of the *Dukes County Intelligencer*, Mrs. Kay Mayhew, the Society's genealogist, and Miss Amy Tanzer and Mr. Peter Van Tassel, both librarians at the Society. For his help in Civil War background and his insight into our exhibit, we would like to thank Mr. William Nicholson, a Civil War aficionado. We would also like to thank Professors Wesley Mott and Joel Brattin for their insight and assistance in the preparation and execution of this project.

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Authorship

Introduction	Written by Gene Campbell and Ray Emerson Edited by Michael Bartley
Background	Written by Michael Bartley and Ray Emerson Edited by Gene Campbell
Project Narrative	Written by Gene Campbell Edited by Ray Emerson
Project Procedure	Written by Gene Campbell Edited by Michael Bartley
Results	Written by Michael Bartley and Ray Emerson Edited by Gene Campbell
Conclusions	Written by Michael Bartley Edited by Ray Emerson
Society/Technology Discussion	Written by Ray Emerson Edited by Gene Campbell

1) Introduction

This project will provide a tangible link between the people of Martha's Vineyard today, and the "Vineyarders" of the period spanning 1861 through 1865. There will be many parts to this project, all of which are related to the Civil War and the role Vineyarders played in it. Most of the work will be done for the Martha's Vineyard Historical Society, which maintains a museum and research library in Edgartown. The major product of this project shall be a recommendation for a museum exhibit, which will be assembled early next year and be in place for the summer season of 2000.

The Martha's Vineyard Historical Society has in its collection a great number of Civil War period artifacts, letters, diaries, and other "realia." Most of these pieces are unidentified and uncatalogued, and several of the documents remain untranscribed and unread, categorized in a series of small boxes and folders. Those pieces that have been catalogued are often incorrectly labeled, missing their accession numbers (by which the museum catalogues its pieces), or possibly, missing entirely from the museum.

The museum needs to have all its property accounted for, and once that is complete, the vast collection of Civil War related material might be used for an eagerly anticipated exhibit. Due to the lack of resources such as time and people, this project has been at a standstill. The IQP team will act as a catalyst to this Civil War exhibit.

Over the period of this project, the group intended to take steps towards identifying and organizing this material into a more easily useable form, and proposed a design and content for an exhibit for the museum. In addition, they completed the transcription of authentic letters from a Vineyard man fighting in the war to his friends and family back home. There were a total of sixty-eight letters written by Charles

Macreading Vincent to his family and friends on the Island, with only eight having been transcribed to date. The three-volume set of his diary for the years of 1862-1864 had already been transcribed and then placed in the museum's safe. Because of a lack of volunteers and workers, the museum had been unable to transcribe these letters for over fifteen years, when Arthur Railton last used them to research an article for the Society's quarterly journal.

While the group allotted a length of time to each of these three sections in the course of the project, this report focussed on the final exhibit. Both categorization of the artifacts and transcription of the letters were major projects in themselves, and did not receive the full attention each deserved. The group made strong efforts to complete significant steps towards a final product that might be used as reference for future project groups at the museum. The museum will benefit greatly from the completed work, which has been needed for many years.

The main audience will be both the people of Martha's Vineyard and the large number of tourists who are interested in the history of the island. Many visitors to the museum are researchers and tourists who come to the island to learn about their ancestors. With this exhibit, these people will be able to learn of the Island's participation in the largest continuous conflict to take place on American soil.

These sections fell within the range of categories defining an Interactive Qualifying Project. The group worked within the atmosphere of a museum, a form of technology which interacts directly with society. Further, the group used their technological expertise in transcription of historical documents and file organization.

Overall, this report and exhibit will be a tool for any person of any age to see that this island experienced the highs and lows of American society with just as much reality as did the larger centers of Boston and New York, Richmond and Atlanta.

2) Project and Historical Background

2.1) Project Origins

Several months before their actual move to the island, the IQP team chose to work on Civil War participation by Martha's Vineyard residents. This work would be in concert with and under the supervision of the Martha's Vineyard Historical Society at the



Vineyard Museum. (see *Figure 1.*)

Preliminary work began during D-term 1999 to prepare the group members for dealing with the atmosphere of a

Figure 1 – Martha's Vineyard Historical Society

museum, handling antique materials, and transcription of documents.¹

The scope of the project, regarding the division of work and the number of letters to be transcribed, was the first obstacle to overcome. Each person involved agreed that an exhibit on Martha's Vineyard's participation in the Civil War would be the final product, but the means by which the group would eventually reach that goal remained vague.

Professor Mott wished the group to perform as much service to the Martha's Vineyard Historical Society as possible in the allotted time. In general, his expectations were that the group complete a section of cataloguing, a section of transcription, and, eventually, design an exhibit based on what had come of the first two sections.

Jill Bouck, the museum curator, desired a focus on the identification and cataloguing of materials held within the museum's F-files. These files are, basically,

¹ This technique is described in Appendix H: Guidelines for Working With Manuscripts

manila folders whose contents were vaguely grouped according to time period or a major event. For example, the files dealt with in this report were all held under the category "Civil War," but their contents were neither identified nor catalogued.

Finally, Mr. William Nicholson, a local Civil War aficionado who had already begun work on transcription of some of Charles Vincent's letters, wished that these sixty-eight letters be completely transcribed and bound with Charles' three diaries, hoping that they would be sold as a small volume at the museum. He was also very eager to see a Civil War exhibit in the museum within the near future.

While it seems that a disagreement existed between the three major advisors of the project, this is by no means true. Each person felt that a singular aspect would be most important to the final project. However, the end decision proved to be an amalgam of each.

After speaking further with Professor Mott, Mrs. Bouck, and Mr. Nicholson, the group was finally able to merge its thoughts on this project with those of all others involved into a cohesive and realistic set of goals. The group agreed that a section of cataloguing, one of transcription, and an ultimate project design would be the three major phases of this project.

2.2) General History of the Civil War

One hundred thirty-eight years ago, the social stresses between the North and South of the United States of America were extremely great (Catton, 1). The North was swiftly progressing towards an economy based almost solely upon industry. New technologies, novel sociological and scientific ideas, and adventure-eager immigrants

from Europe and beyond were hungry to exploit the opportunities present in the North, and to expand into the unexplored western region of the continent. Each Caucasian man had an equal opportunity in this society.

In contrast, the South showed little industrial, scientific or sociological novelty. (Catton, 2) Few cities and fewer industries, aside from agriculture, took hold in this region of North America. The Southern landowners feared change from the "old" ways, and found their lot in life acceptable. For the most part, their only fear was that the North would gain dominance in the legislature. Individual freedom was classified by one ancient tenet: that of race. Caucasians were the rulers; Africans the subjugated. That was the way life was.

For all the differences between North and South, all but one could have easily been resolved by simple rationalization of the issues at hand. This one insoluble issue was slavery. (Catton, 2-3) There is a consensus that the Civil War had many causes, but that slavery was the only one without which this war might never have started. And so, for these differences, Southern states began formal secession from the United States.

Americans first fired shots against themselves in 1861 at Fort Sumter, South Carolina, starting a conflict that would eventually claim the lives of two hundred sixty thousand Americans, including those who died after the war from their injuries, over the course of little more than four years. (Catton, 4)

2.3) Martha's Vineyard and The War

At the beginning of the Civil War, the United States Government issued a request to the local people of the Union states to volunteer for active service in the armed forces.

Nearly two hundred and fifty young men from the towns and farms of Martha's Vineyard, seeing the bounty of \$500 offered for three years of service, enlisted and were mustered into the regiments of the United States Army. The people of this small island, located just off the coast of Massachusetts, made a contribution to the war, just as many other men from all over the Union did. Their motivations were many and varied, mixing national pride, the desire for renown, and a touch of greed for the ample bounties offered in Dukes County. In the end, however, each of these volunteers found enough reason to put his life in the hands of others that the American way of life might be preserved. (Railton, 58)

The tales of many of these men have been lost to history, but that of one man, Charles Macreading Vincent of Edgartown, has survived in the form of nearly seventy letters and three diaries. Most of the direct data on the life of the "common soldier" will come from his writings.

2.4) The War and Charlie Mac

Charles Macreading Vincent's tale, while not as spectacular as the stories of Davis, Lincoln, Grant and Lee, gives an accurate and typical account of the life of the common soldier on the Union side of the Civil War.

He was born in Edgartown in 1844 to a carpenter named Samuel Gifford Vincent. After what might be called a typical childhood, Charlie Mac, as he was called by family and friends, began work at the *Edgartown Gazette*, later known as the *Vineyard Gazette*, as a printer's helper. No record exists of his formal education, although his home life certainly contributed to his intellectual fortitude.

His father was treasurer for the town of Edgartown, and an officer in the Trapp's Pond Fishing Company. Isaiah Pease, his maternal grandfather, served as Sheriff of Dukes County for forty years. One of his maternal uncles, Richard Pease, was considered a great historian on the Island, and served as a teacher, presidential elector, Postmaster, and Register of Probate. One of his paternal uncles, Reverend Hebron Vincent, was a teacher and Methodist minister, and a historian of the Island. (Railton, 58) Living in so educated a household as this, Charlie could hardly help acquiring a formidable intellect and mature manner of self expression, as well as a very tidy writing script. This last proves invaluable to future historians as they work to learn of the Civil War period through his correspondence.

In 1862, after his eighteenth birthday, Charlie volunteered with fifty-seven other young Edgartowners in the United States Army; twenty-five of these soldiers, including Charlie, were in the Massachusetts 40th regiment, Charlie himself serving in Company D. His employer at the *Gazette* sent him along with this recommendation:

Mr. Charles M. Vincent, one of the volunteers from Edgartown, has, for a year past, seen service in the Gazette office. We predict for him a marked career. (Railton, 63)

On September 8, 1862, Charlie's regiment left Boxford, Massachusetts, and began a trek to his first post. After several jaunts by foot, rail and ship, Charlie arrived in Minor's Hill, Virginia, on October 18, 1862, after brief stops in Boston, Jersey City and Baltimore. He began his army career at this time as an Orderly to a general at Minor's Hill. By November, however, Charlie wrote that he was suffering from severe gastrointestinal ailments, but did not mention any specific details besides his symptoms

in his writings home. He remained under medical supervision and light to no duty until February of the next year. (Railton, 66-68)

Over the next year, Charlie's company moved twice more. In February, they moved from Minor's Hill to Hunter's Chapel, Virginia. In November, the company moved to Otter Island, South Carolina. At this time, he noted that he was the last serving member of the twenty-five Edgartown boys still in the 40th Regiment. Two men, Richard Shute and Francis Pease, had been discharged from the army for physical infirmity. The other twenty-two men had been killed by either combat or poor camp conditions. (Railton, 68)

February of 1864 saw Charlie Mac and the 40th Massachusetts serving as a mounted infantry unit, an assignment very similar to that of cavalry, stationed just outside Jacksonville, Florida. He saw his first close combat in this time. The last letter on record from Charlie Mac to his family in Edgartown is dated October 1, 1864. His unit had returned to Virginia, and he was under heavy fire in the town of Bermuda Hundred.

All other records of Charlie Vincent are from military accounts and from his own tales to his family in later years. By the end of his career in 1865, Charlie had seen a great deal of action. He was present at the fall of Richmond, sending a physically massive but verbally concise letter, comprising three full sheets of paper, to his father as follows:

R A
I P
C R
H I
M L
O 3d.
N 1
D 8
Va. 6
5

Dear Father,
I
AM
HERE.
Your affectionate son,
Charlie Mac (Railton, 78)

Six days after this letter was posted, General Lee surrendered at Appomattox Courthouse, Virginia. Five days after this, President Lincoln was assassinated. Charlie sent a lengthy letter to the *Vineyard Gazette*, outraged at the murder. (Railton, 78)

On June 23, 1865, Charlie returned to his home in Edgartown. He was honorably discharged from the army with a promotion to Lieutenant. After an unsuccessful stint as a photographer in New Bedford, Charlie returned to Edgartown and bought the *Vineyard Gazette*, working as the editor until 1872. Seeking to further his career as a journalist, he went on to work in several other newspapers throughout Massachusetts. He finally worked on the editorial staff of the *Boston Globe* until his death in Boston of tuberculosis on March 4, 1881, at the age of thirty-seven. (Railton, 79-81)

Outside of military life, Charlie Mac was an average, well-educated young man with an overweening affinity for herring.² His politics were quite clearly in favor of

² These impressions of Charles Vincent are taken from the group's analysis of his letters and diaries.

Lincoln, Grant and the Union as a set of absolutes. Charlie often condemned the Confederacy in brilliant and eloquent tirades, seemingly at random throughout his correspondence. Charlie never wavered, at least in his letters and diaries, from his faith that the war would soon end. He recorded these sentiments beginning in 1863, and they exist through his last letter in 1864.

But for all his patriotism, Charlie yearned for his home. Speaking often of different places of the Island, Charlie wistfully remembered his youth, fishing in Trapps' Creek and courting some of the young women in and around Edgartown.

2.5) Martha's Vineyard and *The Circular*

The war, while heartily supported in Dukes County by some, was undermined by others. In 1864, three men, Richard L. Pease, Henry L. Whiting, and Reverend William H. Sturtevant, circulated a document throughout the towns of Massachusetts. This document, simply called *The Circular*, was published in several Massachusetts papers and its content went so far as to suggest Massachusetts' secession from the Union. These men vehemently condemned the mandatory draft imposed by the war, feeling that their communities had given enough to a conflict whose only direct effects upon them were the rationing of their food and the deaths of their sons, fathers and brothers. (Miller, 99-100)

The federal government kept draft lists, which were logs of all men between the ages of eighteen and forty-five in each county of each state. These lists were the basis for army draft picks. Since naval service, including both merchant marines and United States Navy, did not count towards an army draft quota, any man pursuing the maritime defense of the United States was eligible for army service. (Miller, 100-101)

These men were already away, however, when the federal government imposed quotas on each county. Therefore, other men from the island, and, eventually, men from the mainland who were hired by the Selectmen of Martha's Vineyard, had to take their places. Dukes County provided the number of men demanded by army quotas, but, with men working the seas, they ultimately provided far more men for the Union's defense than were required. This left the Island with an insufficient number of workers to tend the farms and fishing boats, and eventually led to strained stores of food and a large inflation rate. However, several months earlier, the federal and state governments had mandated that maritime defense would count towards army quotas. Trying to increase the size of the army, the local military governors saw fit to completely ignore this legislation. These circumstances so irked some Vineyarders that they suggested a rally against the state, which the people saw as the only body to blame, until a more fair method of draft could be implemented. (Miller, 111)

On March 25, 1864, James Cooms, editor of the *Vineyard Gazette*, published the first "shot" in the conflict between Martha's Vineyard and the federal government.

Of thirty-eight nine-months men furnished by Edgartown, the evidence of which is clear and unquestionable, the town gets credit in the report of the Adjutant-General...for fifteen only; while records in his office show that twenty-seven were received into camp, and certificates of the Selectmen, on file, that thirty-eight were furnished. Of these thirty-eight men, paid for by the town of Edgartown, the Descriptive rolls show that fourteen are passed to the credit of Boston, and six to Lowell, while some are sought for in vain. (Miller, 109)

Citing the enormous corruption and fraudulence of the military, and the unfair handling of local affairs, Pease, Whiting and Sturtevant invited the people of Massachusetts to "join with us...to take such action as may be deemed most certain to

result in securing for each town in the State the full credit to which it is entitled, for men heretofore furnished for the army and navy of the United States". (Miller, 100) After a conference in Marlboro on June 22, 1864, Governor John Andrew and Adjutant-General William Schouler denied that such mistakes were under their jurisdictions, and attempted to place the blame on other people in power. (Miller, 114-117)

One week later, this dispute was successfully resolved when local administrators on the Island agreed that some fault might belong to them. Mistakes were possible in the count, and corruption of local officials was always a prevalent worry. Further they learned that new legislation would be made and strictly enforced to ensure that naval defenders were counted against the army draft quotas, and would not be ignored by government officials, as had happened in previous months. (Miller, 119)

And so, for a few weeks, Martha's Vineyard stood on a pedestal of fame. Although the rebellion did not spread beyond the borders of Massachusetts, these men from an island assumed to be without any strength of its own had nearly caused a rebellion in a nation already at war with itself.

2.6) Charles Strahan's Statue

Overlooking the harbor in Oak Bluffs stands a statue of a Civil War soldier. (see *Figure 2.*) Its placement there served as a healing in the years after the war, and it still stands to this day as a monument to the men who gave their lives, on both Union and Confederate sides, of this great tragedy.



Figure 2 - Civil War Statue

In 1884, at the age of forty-four years, a former Confederate soldier moved to Martha's Vineyard with his family in search of lucrative printing opportunities. His name was Charles Strahan. As could be expected, his arrival was not greeted with any emotion even approaching joy by the Islanders. (Shively, 116)

Shortly after his arrival, Strahan purchased *The Cottage City Star*, a newspaper published in Cottage City, which is now Oak Bluffs. Feeling that the paper should include the entirety of the island, however, Strahan changed its name to the *Martha's Vineyard Herald*. The paper prospered under his direction, but, personally, he still felt that the people of the Island resented him for being a "Reb" on "Union" soil. (Shively, 117)

Strahan attempted several measures to show his fellow Islanders that he was no longer a Rebel, but only a man who wanted to move on with his life. In 1887, he announced a Memorial Day celebration to take place in Cottage City. Other veterans, however, refused to be part of it if Strahan was in attendance. Charles did not attend, but ran an article the next week entitled "Why I Did Not Turn Out," written under the name of Sidney Hicks, but obviously from the pen of Charles Strahan. In the article, Strahan says, "I belong to that class that can hold forth the hand to the man who fired a gun that did me harm". (Shively, 117) He went on to note that the *Herald* would begin collecting funds to erect a monument in honor of the Grand Army of the Republic, paid for by the subscriptions to his newspaper.

The local G.A.R. post was heartily in favor of this gesture. At a speech before them, Strahan said, referring to the lingering enmity between North and South, that "it would be to me a higher honor than to be President if I could be the man to throw the last

shovelful of earth over the bloody chasm". (Shively, 119) His speech was so well received that the Post requested that his speech be reprinted on the front page of the upcoming *Herald*. Strahan agreed. (Shively, 120)

In August of 1891, a crowd had assembled on Circuit Avenue in Cottage City. Surrounding a figure swathed in an American flag, the people of Martha's Vineyard awaited Charles Strahan and his daughter, Louise, who would unveil the statue. (see *Figure 3*.) Speaking briefly,



Strahan presented his "message in bronze" (Shively, 123) to the people of his Island. He concluded with the following:

...that, as your fathers and mine stood shoulder to shoulder at Valley Forge and Yorktown, and stood by their guns on the decks of the Constitution and Chesapeake, so the sons of the Gray will stand with the sons of the Blue, should any foe, domestic or foreign, dare attack that flag. (Shively, 123)

The monument was that of a Union soldier at ease, standing atop a small fountain pedestal with four spouts shaped as lions' heads to provide refreshment for men and their mounts, as well as a pair of smaller troughs at the bottom for dogs to drink from.

There were four plaques around the base of the statue. The first says:

Erected
In Honor of
The Grand Army
Of the Republic

The second,

Henry Clay Wade
Post GSR No. 201

The third bore the initials "FG&L," the initials of the foundry. The fourth remained blank, as planned by Strahan, that the remaining Union veterans might "inscribe on the blank tablet a token of respect to their old foes in the field". (Shively, 124) Thirty years later, he got his wish.

In 1925, six years before Strahan's death, the community changed the first plaque to read:

Erected
In Honor of
The Grand Army of the Republic
By
Charles Strahan
Co. B., 21st Virginia Regt.

And, inscribed upon the final plaque now lay the words (See *Figure 4*):

"The Chasm Is Closed"
In memory
Of the Restored Union
This Tablet is Dedicated
By Veterans of
Henry Clay Wade Post 201
And Relief Corps
In Honor of
The Confederate Soldiers (Shively, 125)

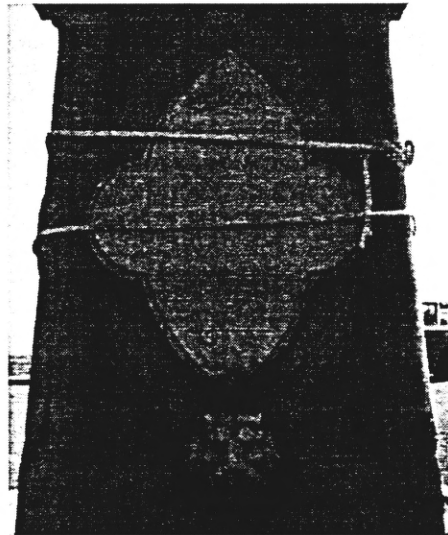


Figure 4 - The Fourth Plaque

In 1980, contrary to its obviously Union accoutrements, the statue was painted in the colors of a Confederate soldier, and, to the present, is known as "The Confederate Statue". It is at present undergoing a massive restoration process to reverse the damage caused by the salt air and water on the metal.³

³ William Nicholson, who has provided a great deal of aid and information to this project, is a part of the statue's restoration team.

3) Project Narrative

On Friday May 21, the group met with Mrs. Jill Bouck, curator of the Vineyard Museum and their project liaison, for the first time. With this meeting came a change in the proposed project that was established during the previous term. Instead of spending most of the project transcribing letters and diary entries of a Martha's Vineyard Civil War veteran, and then making a Civil War exhibit for the museum, the team was asked to sort through a vast quantity of Civil War-related material and catalogue the items found. This work allowed the group to become much more familiar with the museum's holdings, and served as an acceptable commencement of the project. Upon completion of this cataloguing, the transcribing would begin. Mrs. Bouck was very clear in conveying what she wanted the group to do for the museum.

At this point, the group created a new timeline proposal for the project. The group agreed to dedicate Tuesdays and Wednesdays to work at the museum, leaving Saturdays open to go as needed. In addition, the group would spend as much time outside the museum on project work as necessary. Although the scope of the project was altered, it came as no surprise, and the group was quick to adjust to the change and pursue the new objective.

Soon thereafter, the group met with Mr. William Nicholson, a volunteer at the museum and the initiator of the idea of a Civil War exhibit at the museum. After talking with the incredibly knowledgeable man for roughly two hours at his home one night, it became apparent that Mr. Nicholson had his own plans for the group as well. His intentions were that they would transcribe the remaining letters, and to work towards a museum exhibit.

Mr. Nicholson gave the group his transcriptions of the Charles MacReading Vincent letters. He had transcribed the first eight of Charlie Mac's letters by hand, and given them to Mr. Rudy Kuser, another volunteer at the museum, in the Spring of 1999. Mr. Kuser entered Mr. Nicholson's writing into a word processor, and printed out the completed letters. Both of these copies were in the envelope he presented to the group.

Later, the group obtained, from Mrs. Bouck, the three-volume diary of Charlie Vincent and a poem written by Charlie. These documents had already been saved on a word processor with a hard copy held in the museum's archives, while the original pieces were stored in a safe at the museum. After saving the files to the laptop, the group compared the computer files to the hard copies, only to discover that the computer files were missing fourteen pages. These pages may have been missing because of simple computer errors, deletion, never having been entered into the file, or any of a variety of reasons. Using the printed transcriptions, however, the group was able to create a complete copy of the diaries.

Days later, the group saw exactly what they were dealing with. Using the F-Files (the "F" being something that was never completely explained), an extensive series of files containing documents, photographs, letters, diaries and many other items, the group began work on sorting through the files dealing with the Civil War. In addition to these, two boxes, Boxes 35 and 35.1 (by the museum's cataloguing system), were also taken from the archives and given to the group. The contents of these boxes had been rudimentarily identified and catalogued at an earlier date, making them separate from the F-Files. One of the boxes held the letters that Mr. Nicholson wanted transcribed. There

were a total of sixty-eight letters, ranging from one to twelve pages each. Sorting through these files and boxes would occupy one of the main aspects of the project.

For the next few days, the group contemplated how to approach the task at hand. Overwhelmed by the combined expectations of liaison Mrs. Bouck, Mr. Nicholson, Professor Mott, as well as their own expectations, the group thoroughly discussed exactly what to do for the museum, and the best way to do it. As a result, the group fully comprehended the project scope, encompassing such aspects as have already been stated, and felt comfortable setting out to complete it. Work would begin in earnest the next week.

During this time, the group also met with historian Arthur Railton, editor of *The Dukes County Intelligencer*. He had written an extensive article about Charlie Vincent in the April 1984 issue of the *Intelligencer*. He appeared to be very resourceful and willing to help the group. Since his research had been so long ago, however, he could not provide us with much insight to the subject at that time.

Having been provided a workspace in the library where the group could store their work and possessions, the group began identifying the items in the F-files. This process proved lengthy and tedious because of the vast amount of material that had accumulated over so many years. It was common to find terrible script handwriting in the period documents (muster rolls, letters, etc.), which made identification extremely difficult at times. Relying heavily on *The History of Martha's Vineyard, Dukes County, Massachusetts*, by C.E. Banks to provide the names of veterans from the Vineyard, and on some luck in deciphering handwriting, the group analyzed and catalogued every item in the seven uncatalogued files.

Methodically, the group sorted through the folders, and in the end had identified everything following the procedure set forth in Section 4.1 – *The Identification Process of the F-Files*. A few pictures and documents that did not pertain to the Civil War were put aside for the time being, to be categorized later with the assistance of the librarian assistant, Miss Tanzer. Using the computer, the group created a list of all items found within the seven F-files.

The next several trips to the museum were dedicated to documenting the contents of boxes 35 and 35.1. These two boxes were the only two boxes in the museum's archives devoted entirely to Civil War material, and they were already catalogued. As with the F-Files, every item in these boxes was entered directly into the laptop to be used for future reference. Once this task was completed, the group removed all of the catalogue cards with headings under "Civil War" and "U.S. History-Civil War" in the library's card catalogue and created a computer file for these artifacts. These copies and the box 35 and box 35.1 lists were then printed and cross-referenced. Some of the items were quite poorly catalogued, having only a brief description of the item with no other information, while others were not catalogued at all. The group then decided that the present card catalogue system had to be revised.

At this point, the group printed the master list of the F-file contents, and formulated a method of categorization to organize the materials in a more logical way. Mrs. Bouck left the organization of the F-files up to the discretion of the group. Categories were created to best fit the major groups of documents within the F-Files. Two examples of these were *Muster and Enlistment Certifications and Muster Lists* and *Photographs and Sketches*.

After carefully reviewing the master list, the IQP team created six more categories. *Bellum Pamphlets, Books, Speeches, Addresses, and Songs* was one of the more interesting and sizeable folders. Another grouping labeled *Official Documents and Contracts* contained documents from town and state officials, contracts, and draft and quota statements. Other groupings included *Retrospective Historical Writings, National Archives Copies, Newspaper Clippings and Obituary Notes*, and *Letters, Diaries, and Log Books*.

The next step involved sorting the artifacts into the new categories. Again, the group discussed various methods of accomplishing this duty, and had no problems agreeing on the means by which it was done. The Civil War material that had been documented onto the computer was then organized on paper into one of the eight new categories.

The team observed that several of the artifacts dealing with the Civil War were catalogued in boxes other than Boxes 35 and 35.1. After about an hour of research, all the items catalogued somewhere other than the F-files or boxes 35 and 35.1 were located and examined. The group determined that out of all those items, only two should be taken out of their present location, and moved into one of the new groupings that had just been made. Those two documents that were moved had originally been placed with other documents that did not relate to such subject matter. These two documents were a letter from Jefferson Davis and a G.A.R. songbook. Of course, prior to moving these items, the group obtained Mrs. Bouck's permission.

Every item in the F-file folders was moved into its new home, properly organized into one of the eight groupings. Each grouping had its own folder, while a couple of the larger groupings required multiple folders. Once everything was placed into an appropriately labeled folder, the

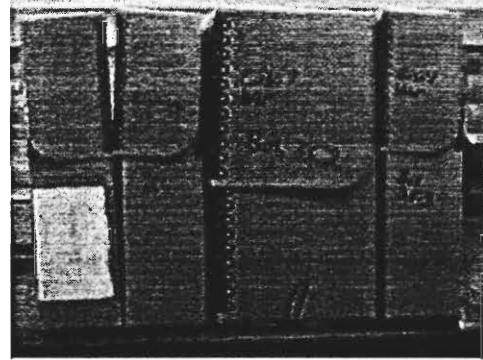


Figure 5 - Catalogue Boxes

folders were put into boxes. In the end, two additional boxes were needed, resulting in a total of four boxes holding all the folders. The boxes were quite simply labeled “Civil War,” and Box 35, 35.1, 35.2, and 35.3. The number 35 refers to the museum's cataloguing system, the Civil War series being the 35th subject section to be placed within the system.

At the same time, the group met with Mrs. Bouck so she could introduce the group to the vast collection of non-documentary Civil War artifacts held at the museum. The collection was larger than expected and ranged from weaponry to clothing to field tables, and even included a period surgeon's kit. All of these items were owned or used by Vineyard families during the Civil War period. A detailed list was given to the group to be recorded into the files. This list was later updated and is presented as Appendix C - *A List of the Museum's Civil War Artifacts*. Later, the group obtained permission to photograph these artifacts for their report.

Now that all the documents, photographs, articles, etc. had been placed into one of eight groupings, they had to be organized within each folder, labeled, and finally placed into the card catalogue. In a very systematic way, the group tackled each folder one at a time, starting with Box 35, and ordered each item in the folders. This meant that

every muster roll or every muster certificate would be grouped together in a folder, followed by perhaps a group of draft-related documents. Once the items were all together within the folder, a label was attached to the acid-free envelope that protected the item. On this label, the box number was written, followed by the folder number and then the envelope number. At the same time, each item was found in our list on the laptop, and then catalogued in a computer file, the "New Card Catalogue," which is presented as Appendix D. By organizing the items in the laptop this way, the group greatly reduced the actual physical handling of the artifacts.

Once every item had its individual label and envelope number on it, and organized in the laptop, the group began writing out catalogue cards for each item. This process was a rather simple one, for the group just printed out the file mentioned above, and then copied the information over onto note cards that were then placed into the card catalogue.

Although the completion of this process came as a great relief, the group moved



Figure 6 - Cannonball Park

on at a rigorous pace. The very afternoon that the entire cataloguing process was finished, the group photographed all the artifacts with a digital camera. Then on the way back home, the group stopped at Cannonball Park in Edgartown to photograph a monument erected to pay tribute to the fifty-eight veterans of the Civil War from Edgartown. The park's memorial obelisk is shown in *Figure 6*. The park is an integral part of picturesque Edgartown, and serves as a reminder of the Civil War to passersby.

This concluded the first portion of the project. All the Civil War related material had been organized and catalogued, and a list of artifacts had been documented. Mrs. Bouck's major desire and expectation of the group had successfully been completed, and the group could now turn its attention towards the nearly seventy letters sent from Charles MacReading Vincent to his family and friends during his three-year tour of duty.

Also that week, the group met with Mr. Nicholson again. This time, Professor Mott accompanied us and met Mr. Nicholson for the first time. This meeting was much shorter than our original meeting, lasting only ninety minutes. We asked Mr. Nicholson if he could supply us with a list of his artifacts that he would be willing to place on exhibit at the museum. Upon receiving this list, the group would have a complete list of all Civil War material that can be used for a museum exhibit. Mr. Nicholson's plans were to supplement the museum's collection with his own artifacts, to be decided upon at a later time.

The group began the journey into the vast collection of letters written by Charlie Mac to his family and friends back home on the island while he served in the war. The compilation consisted of sixty-eight letters written from October 24, 1862, to October 1, 1864. Although transcription was a very time-consuming process, the group was able to move along at a steady pace. Given that there was only one laptop, the group decided to let one person type while the other two transcribed by hand. Each day, roughly eleven letters were transcribed onto the laptop, while six were transcribed onto paper to be later entered into the computer. The eight letters that had already been transcribed by Mr. Nicholson and typed by Mr. Kuser earlier this year were reviewed to ensure that all

original errors or anomalies had been preserved in the transcription. The policy followed for transcription may be found in Section 4.4 – *Editorial Principles in Transcribing*.

The group could now take the time to view the collection of publications regarding the Civil War at the historical society's library, looking for anything dealing specifically with Charlie Mac or the Vineyard's participation in the war. The references proved very informative, and provided much insight to the Vineyard and its unique Civil War monuments, statues, and stories.

With the bulk of the project completed, the group focused on making sure no points of the project work had been overlooked. They spent time looking through their cataloguing and transcription, and added several details to the body of their report. Using Charlie's letters and diaries, the group was able to construct a timeline of his tour of duty, paralleling the major events of the war. The timeline begins with the opening of the Civil War at Fort Sumter, and concludes with the surrender of Lee's army at Appomattox Courthouse. Recorded with Microsoft Excel, the timeline also included important events pertaining to the Civil War, month by month. This timeline is presented as Appendix E - *List of Charles Vincent's Location Paralleled With Major Civil War Events*.

With a better familiarity with the museum's possessions regarding the Civil War than its curator or director, the group embarked on fabricating a proposal for the future Civil War exhibit. With a plethora of items available for use, and no space limitations given to constrain the exhibit at this time (although restraints may be imposed in the future), a review of all the items available was conducted, and objects were selected to be in the proposal. Items to be displayed were taken from the large quantity of artifacts in the attic of the Pease House on the museum campus, the small collection of photographs,

and the documents from the four boxes in the archives. In addition to these articles, Mr. Nicholson stated that he would supplement the exhibit with some of his own possessions, but he did not inform the group of which and how many items he was willing to share with the museum. From this work, the group had a solid basis upon which to build their recommendation for an exhibit.

4) Project Procedures, Principles and Policies

Many of the tasks performed in this project followed strict guidelines. Since all three members of the group worked together on all the tasks, it was necessary to keep each person's work equal. Therefore, the final product would appear to be the work of one person rather than the unorganized work of three individuals who simply put in their pieces of the puzzle. This chapter explains each process completed, and describes the technical procedures used.

4.1) The Identification Process of the F-files

The F-files that were given to the project team consisted of seven different folders containing what was believed to be Civil War related items. Mrs. Bouck had prepared these folders for the group to organize and catalogue in the same manner as all the other things in the library's archives. There was very little reason behind the way these items were organized, other than the fact that all items were related to the Civil War. It was now up to the group to discover just what was in these F-files, and possibly unveil something of great significance. The organization process will aid future researchers by actually providing them with a useable system for Civil War material.

Each member of the team took a folder off the top of the stack, and carefully examined each item one at a time. Then, each wrote a brief description of each article he encountered in his notebook, and included any possible cataloguing numbers that had been written on various items. The order in which each thing was written in the notebooks was the order in which they would appear in the folder. At the same time, each item was placed in an acid-free envelope to protect and help preserve it. This also

helped in identifying where one concluded work the day before since those items that had not been analyzed were not in an acid-free casing. Once completed, the clearly labeled folders were returned to the group's own workspace where no one could tamper with them. This identification process took nearly two weeks to complete and led directly into the grouping process.

4.2) The Organization and Grouping Process of the F-files

Later, the group entered their descriptions, written in their notebooks, into a file named "Master List of Items in F-files" on the laptop. A printout of this file is shown in Appendix B – *Master List of Items in F-files*. Each of the seven folders given to us had been given a title, and therefore there was no confusion over folders. When this was complete, all the contents of the seven F-files folders had been accounted for with a brief description of each written in a single Microsoft Word file on the team's laptop.

This computer file was then printed out, and reviewed by each team member. In addition, another computer file documenting all the contents of Box 35 and Box 35.1 were printed out. Together, these two files accounted for all the paper document Civil War material in the museum's possession.

The group decided that all the items should be grouped together in very descriptive and focused subject headings. Some of the more obvious headings were instantly written on a blank piece of paper, and assigned a color. The group assigned these colors only to facilitate cataloguing. They hold no significance to the final cataloguing. Using a series of different colored pencils, a group member placed an "X" of a designated color to the left of a subject heading. At this point, the group looked

through all the printed pages of the master list file, and wherever a description fell under that particular subject heading, it too was marked by an “X” of the same color. After the group had finished marking all the items that fell into the first category, a second category was made, and the same process was repeated. In the end, that blank piece of paper had eight subject headings written on it, with eight different colored X’s next to them. At this point, everything that the group had been working with was now accounted for, and they could now be organized in new folders.

Now that everything from the museum’s F-files and two archival boxes was organized on paper, the next step was to physically organize every item. The first step in this process was to obtain eight acid-free filing folders, and label each one with its subject heading. One member of the team then viewed the master list file while another began removing items from an F-file folder. This ensured that each item was indeed the one described in the computer file, and also made sure that in the end, all the items were transferred. Meanwhile, the third person would then place each item into its new folder. All seven of the F-file folders and all the contents of Box 35 and Box 35.1 were placed into new folders under one of the eight new subject headings using this procedure.

Once all the items had been moved and placed into new folders, the team began putting away the folders into archival boxes. Four boxes were needed to house all the new folders. The boxes were then labeled and put away until more work could be done.

At this point, everything had to be organized within the folders. Since some subject headings were rather broad like *Letters, Diaries and Log Books*, minor adjustments in the order of the contents had to be made. In this case, all the letters were put together, as were the diaries and log books. While items were being moved within

the folders, they were also being moved into the same order on a laptop file. This new electronic file, titled *New Card Catalogue*, is shown in Appendix D. With this, the organizational aspect of this task was complete.

4.3) The Cataloguing Process

With all the realia now organized and placed in one of four archival boxes, each item had to be individually catalogued. Every acid-free envelope was then labeled. If the envelope was transparent, a small sticker was placed on it with the necessary information written on it. The box number was written on the top, followed by the folder number, and then the envelope number. The top envelope in each folder was always labeled number one, and each sequential envelope was numbered in order. Within each folder, the sequence was fairly random.

The cards in the card catalogue were removed, and then assessed. Some of them could be re-used, but a majority were transcribed onto new cards with proper cataloging numbers. Using the new card catalogue file, each item had an identification card made for it, with the same numerical cataloging system as that written on the envelopes. Once all the cards had been made or edited, they were returned to the library's card catalogue.

At this point, the group thought they had completed all the work, but Mrs. Bouck quickly informed them that pictures could not be placed in archival boxes. The folder containing the photographs was removed from a box, and then moved to their new home in the museum's photograph filing system. All the cataloging cards were then updated and moved to assure easy access to the photographs. Finally, the group had concluded all the work that needed to be done concerning the F-files.

4.4) The Editorial Principles in Transcribing

During the Preliminary Qualifying Project, (PQP), the group believed that the transcribing of Charlie Mac's letters was going to be practically the entire project. Therefore, the group spent much learning about the transcription process and how to handle rare documents. Professor Joel Brattin had educated the group, and provided guidelines used when working with manuscripts. A copy of this hand-out is presented in Appendix I - *Guidelines for "Working with Manuscripts"*. Thanks to all the work done during the PQP, the group was well prepared to transcribe Charlie Mac's letters.

Out of the sixty-eight letters in the museum's possession, Mr. Nicholson and Mr. Kuser had already done eight. The group already knew that they wanted to preserve all spelling and grammatical errors, cross-outs, capitalization, and punctuation, and fortunately, the first eight had been done exactly that way. The group felt the lineation should be as accurate as possible, especially when transcribing the headings, indents, and concluding remarks, although they place no major emphasis on lineation within the bodies of the letters. Charlie possessed an extensive knowledge of English grammar and a more than passing familiarity with spelling. As such, very few corrections were needed.

When the group removed the letters from their protective envelope, they discovered that Mr. Nicholson had already ordered the letters chronologically, and divided them into four different smaller envelopes. The first envelope contained only the first eight letters, chronologically, that he had already completed. The team viewed each

letter, and entered the dates of each one into a computer file on the laptop. This file was then used as a checklist to identify which letters had been transcribed.

Since the group had only one laptop, and the ultimate goal was to have all the letters transcribed onto a Microsoft Word file, the group decided that the fastest typist would use the laptop. The other two members would therefore transcribe their letters by hand into a notebook to be typed into the laptop later. Each letter would encompass its own computer file, with its name determined by the date found at the header of each letter. This scheme turned out to be very efficient.

Transcription then began and before long the group discovered just how rigorous the transcribing process is. A strong sense of communication among the members was required to keep the same format in each other's work. For instance, anywhere Charlie inserted words with a carat (^) and wrote between the lines, the group choose to just superscript those inserted words as close as possible in the transcription as they appeared in the letters. Fortunately, Charlie's penmanship was very good, and the group had very few problems reading his writing, with the exception of when he wrote in other languages, such as Latin, French and Greek, and used obscure English words. Luckily, one member of the group was well versed in several foreign languages, as well as a great deal of the less frequently used vocabulary of the English language, making this task easier by far.

By taking one letter at a time, the group worked steadily through the stacks of letters, all using the same techniques. Because of time constraints, it was impossible to fully annotate each letter as to uncommon English vocabulary or non-English translations. The group was able to make a token effort in this direction, however, by

creating a "cast of characters" from Charlie's letters, presented in Appendix G - *The Cast of Charlie's Letters*.

5) Project Results

This section is dedicated to this group's major results and recommendations for the future. As the group has noted in the past, this project encompassed three main areas: **The cataloguing of the museum's Civil War materials, the transcription of Charles Vincent's Letters, and the recommendations for the future Civil War exhibit.** Three distinct sets of results have come from this work. The recommendations for the exhibit will be presented in the next section, since this will be presented to Mrs. Bouck as a separate document.

The group's first work, which spanned the first month of the project, dealt with the organization and categorization of the museum's F-Files and Civil War materials. From this effort, the museum has gained a series of files that are neatly categorized and catalogued, each item in a separate acid-free envelope. Before this, the majority of the Civil War documents and photographs lay in manila folders, unprotected from the atmosphere or from themselves. This work affords two major benefits. First, the artifacts will be safe from the elements for a much greater length of time than had they been left as they were. Second, the new arrangement allows for a much swifter use of the files for research purposes.

Next came the transcription of Charles Macreading Vincent's letters. Early in the project, the group believed that this would be a more extensive portion of their work. On speaking with all parties involved, however, this proved to be incorrect. While an interesting individual, his life could not be the main focus of a museum exhibit, and therefore, must be only a part of it. An entire exhibit devoted solely to his writings, which are the only surviving evidence of his existence, would provide a dull exhibit. The

transcription, however, will prove invaluable for historians performing research about Vineyarders in the Civil War, providing a first-person account of the daily life of a soldier. This work will also allow future scholars to go straight to easily readable documents, not stopping to wonder over a word or phrase in the original documents. Further, the original documents need not be touched nearly so often, since a clear transcription of their contents is now available.

From the beginning, this project's goal has been to create an exhibit dealing with Martha's Vineyard's role in the American Civil War for the Martha's Vineyard Historical Society. Since the next set of exhibits is to be constructed in or around April of 2000, the group will be unable to actually participate in the fabrication of their exhibit. The group has, however, made a series of recommendations dealing with what should be contained within that exhibit to best illustrate the Vineyard's role. Section Six, *Conclusions and Recommendations*, deals specifically with the exhibit proposal, as well as the group's recommendations for handling some of the other artifacts at the museum.

Each of these three aspects fulfills the criteria of an Interactive Qualifying Project. As the group has shown, they have functioned within the environment of a museum, which is a direct interaction between the preservation technology of the museum and the society which comes to view that technology. Further, they have provided a service to the museum, using their technical expertise in cataloguing and transcription to reach the final goal of a museum exhibit. And, finally, the recommendations have been based on the group's technical and humanistic study.

6) Conclusions and Recommendations

These recommendations are the culmination of work performed by Michael Bartley, Gene Campbell, and Ray Emerson on their Interactive Qualifying Project, a degree requirement for Worcester Polytechnic Institute. In this section, the group will list and explain what would be appropriate and worthwhile in a Civil War exhibit.

The IQP itself is a large, group project that studies the interaction of science and technology and is required of all degree seeking WPI students. This group's project had three main parts: cataloging, transcribing, and this, the recommendation for a Civil War exhibit.

6.1) Civil War Exhibit Recommendations

The first step of cataloging started off with the group's identification of over a hundred items contained in the museum's F-files. These files contained a wide assortment of documents; many unaccounted for in the card catalog. After identifying the contents of the F-files, the group then looked at the museum's current collection of previously identified Civil War documents located in two boxes in the research library. They took all the Civil War material found within both the F-files and museum boxes and reorganized it into new categories by subject, making it easier to find things in the collection.

After finishing this cataloging process the group then moved on to the transcription part of their project. The museum has in its collection sixty-eight letters written during the war by Charles Macreading Vincent to members of his family. Charles was a soldier in the Union Army whose military career took him all up and down the East Coast. Charles was an up and rising member of Martha's Vineyard society and

after the war went on to a successful career in journalism in various areas of Massachusetts. Only eight letters had been transcribed before the group started working on them. Over the period of two weeks the group finished the large task of transcribing the remaining sixty letters. In addition to the cataloging and transcribing the group also performed background historical research on the Civil War and the island around the period of the Civil War. More details about the work done in the project itself and our historical research can be found in the much more extensive final report for the Interactive Qualifying Project, which should be on file at the Martha's Vineyard Historical Society.

After the completion of the first two parts of the project the group then moved on to their final goal, the group's recommendations for a Civil War exhibit. The group was now familiar with the Civil War material in the museum. This combined with their historical background, which was only increased by the work done during the project, gave them the necessary information to write a reasonable recommendation. Aiding the group and the museum in its Civil War efforts has been Mr. William Nicholson, a local Civil War aficionado, whose knowledge of the Civil War and its artifacts almost matches his excitement for this new exhibit. Combining these several resources allows the group to present this recommendation with a feeling of confidence as to the quality thereof.

The group considered many factors when writing its recommendation, including the audience of the exhibit, the artifacts and documents in the museum's collection, and the arrangement of the material in an order which might more readily be used for research purposes. When considering what type of exhibit to create, the group had two basic choices. One was a general exhibit about the Civil War, and the other was an

exhibit about the uniquely Vineyard aspects of the Civil War. The group's final decision was to work towards a balance of both aspects in hopes of creating an exhibit that might appeal to a wider range of viewers.

The group's recommendations consist of a list of the items they consider appropriate for the exhibit and how they should be organized by category and order. The list will show how the group wishes the items placed in the exhibit, along with a brief explanation of the item and reason why it should be included. The group recommends that the exhibit be divided into five parts: **General Civil War Artifacts, Vineyard Aspects of the War, Documents, Charles Macreading Vincent, and Post War Material.**

General Civil War Artifacts

Uniform pieces - The museum has in its collection swatches of both Union and Confederate uniforms, as well as various insignia and rank markings. In addition to the museum's holdings, the group is counting on Bill Nicholson to help with this part of the display. He has told the group and the museum that he is willing to loan pieces of his private collection for use in this exhibit. He can supplement the museum's uniform pieces collection with his own copies and pieces of original uniforms. He is also very knowledgeable of period uniforms and uniform pieces, and he could correctly identify the pieces in the museum's collection and which side and rank might have worn them. A thorough exhibit on the actual uniforms worn by soldiers would be able to show viewers what a soldier of the period may have actually looked like. The pieces from the museum's collection include:

Pieces of Union and Confederate uniforms - each of them about 3 inches square.

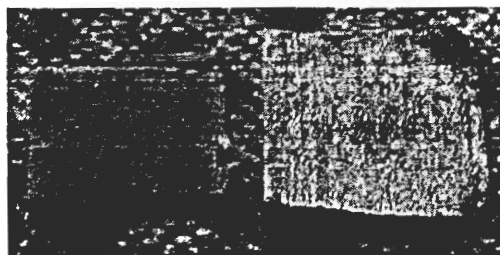


Figure 7 - Cloth Swatches

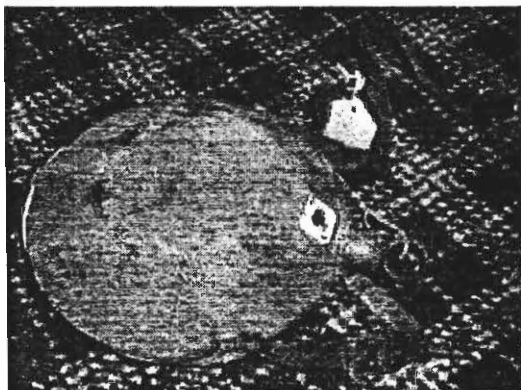


Figure 8 - Canteen

Civil war canteen

Epaulettes - two of them, gold braid on black velvet.

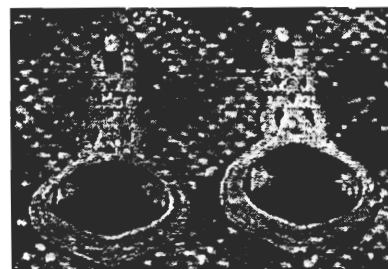


Figure 9 - Epaulettes

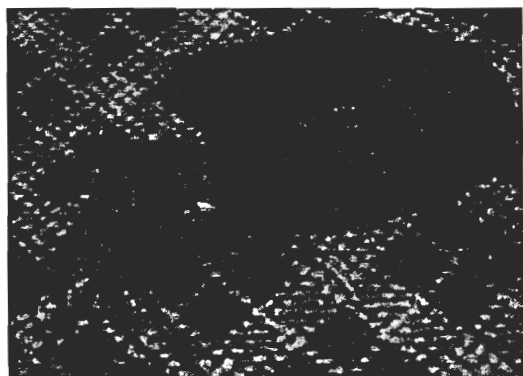


Figure 10 - Red Sash

Red waist sash

Helmet pieces - parts that were screwed into the top of a helmet; these are the two remaining pieces of a three-piece set.

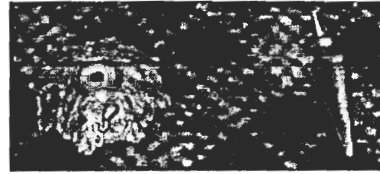


Figure 11 - Helmet Pieces



Figure 12 - Buttons and Insignia

Civil war buttons & insignia - various buttons and insignia of rank and branch of service.

Children's Zouave uniform – a complete uniform used by children to escort soldiers to their boats when leaving for service.

Pictures of Vineyard soldiers in uniform - may also be included in this part of the exhibit to show how the soldiers looked in their uniforms. The museum has a photo folder dedicated to the Civil War (Photo files # 970) where some of these photos can be obtained.

Five swords, one double barrel shotgun, a bayonet - all part of a single donation to the museum, these represent the museum's Civil War armaments. Mr. Nicholson's expertise will be necessary in this part, as all the swords are mixed together with a series of other blades.

Civil War writing kit

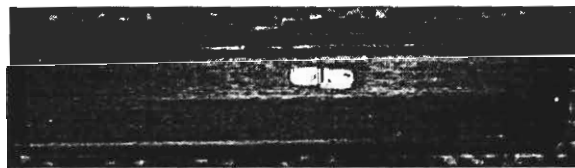


Figure 13 - Writing Kit



Field desk

Figure 14 - Field Desk

Vineyard Aspects of the Civil War

The Circular - This is an important piece of Vineyard History. *The Circular* was a letter written by three prominent men from the island urging other town officials to convene in Boston for a violent rebellion against the State protesting the iniquity of the Army draft procedures. This was a drastic step for these men to take, since the nation was already weakened by a rebellion in the South. The group believes that few people actually know about this and think that more people would like to know about this Vineyard step of defiance. A short write up about *The Circular* and then the actual document could be displayed. The museum has an original printed copy of *The Circular*, which is located in Box 35, Folder 1, Envelope 1. A section regarding the history of *The Circular* may be found in Section 2.5 – *The War and The Circular*.



Civil War surgeon's kit and photo of Dr. Winthrop Butler – according to the museum's records, the surgeon's kit belonged to Dr.

Figure 15 - Surgeon's Kit

Winthrop Butler, a Vineyarder. The only available information on Dr. Butler is that he was an Edgartown resident and that his family donated his medical kit to the Society. The group thinks this is an important item to display because the kit itself shows better than any text description the state of medical care during the war. It could also be used to stress that more soldiers died from the primitive and barbaric medical treatment than from battle.

Monohansett - This Martha's Vineyard ferry was taken away from its route between mainland and the island to be used during the war. It was used by Grant himself a few times and carried dispatches between Washington, D.C. and Grant's mobile headquarters in the South. The group thinks a picture of the boat and a text description of its importance would be a good idea. Also the **Photograph of General Grant**, which is in the museum's archives, that once hung aboard the *Monohansett* would be a powerful inclusion in the exhibit. An article about the *Monohansett* is in the May 1966 *Intelligencer*.

Ocmulgee – This was a Vineyard whaling ship, and was the first capture for the Confederate privateer *Alabama*. The group does not know if any pictures of the ship still exist, but, if some might be found, information on this ship would be a worthwhile addition.

Lists of island men in service - Several different examples of these are in the Museum's collection. The group picked out what they thought to be the four best ones as far as content, regarding aesthetic appearance and completeness. Whoever makes the final decision for the exhibit can include one, none, or all of these as space will allow. More documents like these can be found in the *Muster and*

Enlistment Certifications and Muster Lists category of the Civil War boxes in folders 2, 3, and 4 of box 35. The documents are:

- A reproduced Roll Call of all Civil War Veterans of Edgartown, Massachusetts. Box 35, Folder 2, Envelope 2
- List of men from Edgartown who were in either the Navy or Army, Box 35, Folder 2, Envelope 3
- Enlistment Roll for Commonwealth of Massachusetts, M.V.M, Edgartown, 1862. Box 35, Folder 2, Envelope 4
- A List of men mustered from Edgartown prior to May 19, 1863. List of men mustered from Edgartown since May 19, 1863 as well. Box 35, Folder 2, Envelope 15

Charles Macreading Vincent

A large part of our project dealt with the Vineyarder Charlie Macreading Vincent. The group thinks that a short biography about him along with a select letter or two of his should be part of this exhibit. Biographical background on Charlie is found in Section 2.4 – *The War and Charlie Mac* of this report, and an *Intelligencer* article about Charlie by Arthur Railton appears in its November 1984 issue. The Museum also has two sets of diaries from Charlie that had been transcribed by an individual unknown to this group before the beginning of this project. Excerpts from these diaries might also be included in the display about Charlie.

Documents

Many documents are in the Civil War section of the museum's archives. A complete list of these documents is located in Appendix D – *The New Card Catalogue* of this report and is also to be found in the card catalog under the category “Civil War”. Each document shows, in some way, part of the daily life of Vineyarders as the war progressed. The documents herein are those which the group felt best represented the state of Martha's Vineyard during the Civil War and Post-Bellum period. Of the over 200 documents in the museum’s Civil War section of the archives, the group recommends the following for the exhibit:

Rally Poster Folder 1, Box 35.3, Envelope 4

The United States Conscription Law of 1863 also known as the National Militia Act. Box 35.3, Folder 1, Envelope 2

General Order No 43 of Commonwealth of Mass Sep 1st 1862 announcing the draft. Box 35.1, Folder 1, Envelope 13

General Order No 49 of Commonwealth of Mass Dec 7 1864, districting state into Military Districts for enlistment purposes Box 35.1, Folder 1, Envelope 11

Enlistment and muster certifications Several of these are in the archives; whoever makes the final display can select one or two of them in the best condition to display

Certificate of mustering officer Many of these are in the archives. The best looking one or two can be selected and displayed

Military commendation to Capt. G.R. Hurlburt, Co. F. 3rd Mass. Volunteers. Box 35, Folder 4, Envelope 21

Note from Jefferson Davis addressed to the Senate and House of Representatives, concerning a communication from the Secretary of War. Jan 7, 1864. Box 35.3, Folder 1, Envelope 3

Post-War Material

After the war, old memories, hatreds and questions lingered in the minds of the survivors. The following items should be placed towards the end of the exhibit, as they deal with happenings after the war. Some items, such as the "Confederate Statue" and Cannonball Park, are aspects of the repercussions of the Civil War that affect the lives of Vineyarders every day, although little of the history behind them is really known.

Charles Strahan's statue This Civil War memorial statue in Oak Bluffs has a lot of history behind it. The fact that it was built by donations from a Confederate soldier in Union territory is meaningful. A display should be made about the statue, its history, and its current restoration process. An article about the statue appears in the February 1996 issue of the



Figure 16 - Strahan's Statue

Intelligencer. Mr. Nicholson is on the restoration committee for the statue and should be able to provide much information on the statue's history and the restoration process.

Cannonball Park Including a display about this park in the museum would serve two purposes. First, it would inform the public about the park and its history as a memorial to the men of Edgartown who volunteered for service in the Civil War. This would show how the people of the island respected their war heroes and believed that they should be honored with

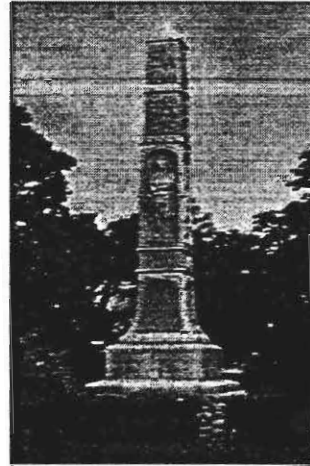


Figure 17 - Cannonball Park

their own place in history by providing them a memorial in an easily seen part of the town. Second, it would encourage people to visit the park, which is fairly close to the museum.

G.A.R. items The Grand Army of the Republic was an important part of American society after the war. It gave the veterans of the war a collective voice and also a place to gather and share their memories. The museum has several G.A.R items that the group thinks should be put on display.

G.A.R hats The Museum has two G.A.R. stetsons, located upstairs in the Pease House on the museum campus.



Figure 18 - G.A.R. Stetson

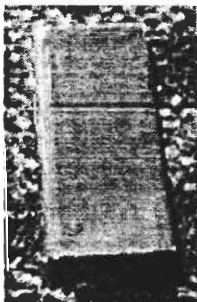


Figure 19 - G.A.R. Roster

G.A.R. roster This is located in the Pease House in the same room as the hats, showing the names of men from the local New

Bedford G.A.R. chapter. There was no specific chapter for Martha's Vineyard, and war veterans from the island were a part of the New Bedford chapter.

G.A.R. War Songs for Anniversaries and Gatherings of Soldiers This pamphlet is in good condition and is located in Box 35.3 Folder 1, Envelope 10

Newspaper article about Harry F. Castello Mr. Castello was the final survivor of the Civil War on the island at the time of the publication of the article in 1931.

It is located in Box 35, Folder 1, Envelope 4.

6.2) Recommendations for Future Projects

In transcribing Charles Vincent's letters, the group has opened a valuable historical doorway into the life of the "common soldier" in the Civil War era. These same letters, however, are over a century old and very fragile. Most especially, the letters written in pencil are fading badly, and should be protected as well as possible from the atmosphere. This group recommends that the original copies of the letters, held in Box 35.2, Envelope 1, be placed in the museum's safe.

In order that historians might still use these letters for research, it would be in the museum's interest to create acid-free photocopies of the transcriptions of the letters, and replace the original letters with these. Proper annotation must of course be made in the card catalogue to show that these letters are copies, and that the originals are located in the safe. Further, this group would recommend that an acid-free archival copy of the letters accompany the original letters in the safe as a backup to the filed copies. This would minimize the handling of the original documents to the lowest possible degree.

Before being filed away in the safe, however, an employee of the museum or an appropriately educated scholar should proofread the original letter against the copied transcriptions. This would allow for the smallest number of discrepancies between the original and the copy. Further, it would decrease the handling of the original documents by making a check by scholars against the original superfluous.

The group's next recommendation also deals with the Vincent letters. In past years, Charlie's diaries have been transcribed. These copies reside in the library's files. As a possible method of raising money for the museum, the group recommends that the sixty-eight letters and three diaries be bound in a small volume as a supplement to the *Dukes County Intelligencer*, beginning with Arthur Railton's 1984 article on Charlie Mac. A similar volume, dealing with the African-American history of the Island, is already available in the museum shop and library. Such a volume would be an interesting piece of information to any tourists who have an interest in the Civil War. Further, the book could prove a valuable resource in local schools in a student's education about the Civil War. It would serve as a way of shedding a local sidelight into a time that seems remote, both temporally and physically, to an average student.

7) Technology and Society Discussion

In undertaking an Interactive Qualifying Project, a group must understand that their project must fulfill, at its most basic level, the goal of exploring the interaction of society and technology. This section answers the question dealing with this aspect of the Interactive Qualifying Project: Why is this project an IQP?

Such a question may have many answers, or may have only one. In the case of this project, two main reasons present themselves. 1) The group has worked using the technology of a museum environment to reach a certain goal. 2) The group has contributed their technological skills to perform some task for the museum.

The environment of a museum is a form of technology that directly affects society. In such an institution, one will see a group of people working to collect, preserve and protect the history of mankind. Archivists, archaeologists, genealogists, and the like use their technological knowledge in conjunction with proven techniques and materials to ensure that a portion of mankind's knowledge of itself survives the passing of time. Working with the Martha's Vineyard Historical Society, the group has followed techniques of preservation and identification to catalogue, identify and transcribe several hundred pieces of Civil War material in order that these pieces might not be destroyed by simple neglect.

Prior to their arrival on the Island, the group learned certain techniques of research, handling antique materials, and transcription of documents. The techniques were tools to ensure that the group knew exactly how to tackle the main work of their project. Through that work, most of the Civil War material held at the Martha's Vineyard

Historical Society is now safely catalogued and protected from the environment, and is properly catalogued for any researchers to use.

Clearly, these two statements show that the work completed in this project easily meets the criteria for an Interactive Qualifying Project. The group has completed a project, based in the atmosphere of a museum, which incorporates the interaction of society and technology. Through their work, the inhabitants of and visitors to Martha's Vineyard will be able to see the part played by the Island over the course of the American Civil War.

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Appendix A – Vineyard Museum Statement

(From the *Dukes County Intelligencer*)

"The Martha's Vineyard Historical Society was founded in 1922 to preserve and publish the history of Dukes County for the public benefit. It is a non-profit institution, supported by membership dues, contributions and bequests, which are tax deductible. Its annual meeting is held in August in Edgartown.

"The Society operates The Vineyard Museum on its grounds at School and Cooke Street, Edgartown. The Museum includes the Thomas Cooke House, circa 1765, a house museum of Island history, open from mid-June to mid-September. Also on the grounds are the Francis Foster Gallery, the Capt. Francis Pease House and the Gale Huntington Library of History, open all year, as are the Gay Head Light exhibit with its 1854 Fresnel lens and the Carriage Shed containing boats, wagons, an 1854 Button hand-pumper fire engine and many other examples of Vineyard memorabilia, including the gravestones of Nancy Luce's favorite hens, circa 1860."

Over the past seven years, the Martha's Vineyard Historical Society has sponsored and worked with many different Interactive Qualifying Projects from Worcester Polytechnic Institute. Past groups have studied erosion effects on the island's lighthouses, developed a computerized cataloguing system for the museum's artifacts, conducted a fire safety study, and have pursued a number of other subjects through the Society's graces.

Appendix B – Master List of Items in F-Files

Folder #471 – Major component: letters and muster/enlistment certificates

- 1) Muster certification of Thos. F. McKenna by Orville W. Leonard, Capt Co. C., 42nd Rgt. Oct 11, 1862.
- 2) Muster certification of George Gray and Isaiah S. Coombs. Oct 14, 1862.
- 3) Enlistment certification of John Brown by Capt. Joseph H. Collins. Signed by Alfred N. Proctor, Co. G., 42nd Rgt. Sept 23, 1862.
- 4) Muster certification of Michael Farley, John O'Brien, Timother Laffet, Peter McCaulley to the 55th Rgt. Signed by <unknown>, Mustering Officer. Sept 25, 1862.
- 5) Muster certification of Samuel Pent by William Logan Rodman, 2nd Lieut, Recruiting Officer. Aug 15, 1862.
- 6) Enlistment certification of William Sniffle by Capt. A. Chamberlin, 1st Rgt. Aug 30, 1862.
- 7) Enlistment certification of Thomas Matthews, James O'Shaughnessy, John Barnes, William H. Elli, John Hatham by George Sherrie, Capt. Co. D. 42nd Rgt. Sept 26, 1862.
- 8) Letter from W.H. Bartlett, Capt. Co. K., 4th Rgt, to Mr. Marchant. Sept 14, 1862.
- 9) Contract for the sale of a boat between Benjamin S.C. Dowling and the Selectmen of Edgartown. Aug 16, 1862.
- 10) Muster certification for Benjamin S.C. Dowling by the Selectmen of Edgartown. Aug 16, 1862.
- 11) Enlistment certification for Charles B. Wilson by < unknown>, Justice of the Peace. Oct 11, 1862.
- 12) Enlistment certification for Charles B. Wilson, signed by Charles F. <unknown>, Major Provost Marshall. Oct 11, 1862.
- 13) Muster certification for Jamels M. Tilton, John Fisher, James Smith, Jethro Worth, Joseph A. Ripley, Joseph H. Wilbur, Edward E. Beetle by George R. Hurlbut, Capt. Co. F., 73rd Rgt. Sept 19, 1862.
- 14) Letter allotting \$250 to Abraham Fisher from George L. Fisher. Apr 27, 1862.

- 15) Enlistment certification of Thomas Gahergin by A. Chamberlin, Recruiting officer. Sept 11, 1862.
- 16) List of 58 men mustered from Edgartown in 1862.
- 17) Muster certification for Damon Y. Norton by S. W. Burstead, Capt. Co. D., 45th Rgt. Oct 9, 1862.
- 18) Muster certification of Richard Shute by Capt. Henry F. Danforth. Aug 26, 1862.
- 19) Muster certification of E. B. Morse by Joseph Murdock, Capt. Co. C. Aug 26, 1862.
- 20) Letter from Faxhall A. Parker, Cmdr of the Potomac Flotilla, to Senior Officer W. Lickes. May 11, 1865.
- 21) Muster certification of John Carr by W.H. Bartlett, Capt. Co. K., 4th Rgt. Sept 12, 1862.
- 22) Receipt of \$250 bounty by John Carr. Sept 29, 1862.
- 23) Enlistment certification of Alonzo Ripley (performed by David Davis, Justice of the Peace) by Capt. Henry F. Danforth, 40th Rgt. Sept 2, 1862.
- 24) Muster certification and bounty order for Elihu M. Bunker by Capt. Henry F. Danforth. Aug 26, 1862.
- 25) Muster certification of Francis Pease, Jr., by Capt. Henry F. Danforth. Aug 26, 1862.
- 26) Muster certification of Francis Norton and William Howe by M.S. Cobb, Capt. Co. G., 3rd Rgt. Oct 2, 1862.
- 27) Muster certification and bounty order of William H. Harrington by Capt. Henry F. Danforth. Aug 26, 1862.
- 28) Enlistment certification of Louis Briand by Capt. George Sherrie, 42nd Rgt. Oct 10, 1862.
- 29) Enlistment certification of Christopher Smith by Capt. George Sherrie. Oct 6, 1862.
- 30) Permission slip for military enlistment for William A. P. Totten, signed by Love Marcy, his mother. Aug 26, 1862.
- 31) Muster certification for Robert Leitch and James O'Connell by James Roger, Capt. 55th Rgt.
- 32) Muster certification of Patrick Devine by James Rogers, Capt. 55th Rgt. Oct 7, 1862.
- 33) Enlistment certification of William Thompson by Capt. Davis W. Bailey, Co. H., 42nd Rgt. Sept 29, 1862.

- 34) Muster certification and bounty order of Benjamin Smith by Capt. Henry F. Danforth. Aug 26, 1862.
- 35) Muster certification of David Gracy and James Gorman by Charles A. Davis, Adjutant 42nd Rgt.
- 36) Muster certification of William Smith, Chauncey Smith, Leonard Clark, William Totten, Enoch Cornell, Marcus Smith, John Dindy and Carl Dart by Capt. A.S. Chamberlin, 1st Rgt. Sept 1, 1862.
- 37) Various documents from David Ripley Rockafellar, Co. E7, N.Y. d.1864
Including: List of Hooker's battles
Pages from American Tract Society – "Friendly Conversation"
- 38) "Article of Agreement for Surgeon's Steward" signed by John Bell Smith; witnessed by George Cooke, Asst. Surgeon, U.S.N.
- 39) Martha's Vineyard Draft List. 156 men; year unknown.

Folder #491 – Major component: various Post-Bellum pamphlets.

- 1) Pamphlet, "The Merrimac and Monitor Naval Engagement Illustrated". Cor. Madison Ave and 59th St, New York, 1886.
- 2) Pamphlet, "Sanitary Commission No. 77, Fifth Report". Oct 1, 1863.
Author: Fred. N. Knapp, Special Relief Agent
Recipient: Dr. J. Foster Jenkins, General Secretary, U.S. Sanitary Com'n
- 3) Pamphlet, "Official Souvenir Program of the 24th National Encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic, Boston, Mass. August, 1890." Issued under the authority of the executive Com. Of the Nat. Encampment. By Geo. H. Richards, Jr. & Co., Jewellers, 383 Washington St., Boston.
- 4) Pamphlet, "The Battle of Gettysburg: How to See and Understand It. The Tourist's Guide and Hand-Book with explanatory map and roster of the armies". By L.W. Minnigh. Map included.

- 5) "The Grand Army of the Republic. An Address Delivered Before the Veterans of Dukes County, At Edgartown, Massachusetts, May 30, 1889, By Hosea M. Knowlton".

Folder #491, Bellum documents and rolls.

- 1) Enlistment Roll for Commonwealth of Massachusetts, M.V.M, Edgartown, 1862.
- 2) List of men drafted from Edgartown. 2 Pages containing July, 1863; May 13, 1864; June 11, 1864; July 6, 1864.
- 3) "The names of men borne on the Enrollment Lists of the town of Edgartown, Massachusetts, who before the 24th day of February, 1864 had entered the naval service of the United States..." Signed by Edgartown Selectmen and the Justice of the Peace (probably to verify citizenship).
- 4) Muster Lists for "Military Service", 3 year and 9 month lists.
- 5) Station Bill, U.S. Bark Ethan Allen.
- 6) A letter from Edgartown's Selectmen to "His excellency, John A. Andrew" (Present Governor). A list of "Named persons, citizens of Edgartown, may have entered the naval services of the United States..."
- 7) United States Volunteer Enlistment List, Edgartown, August 1862. (includes Charles Mac. Vincent).
- 8) List of "men furnished by Edgartown for military service of the United States but not duly accredited to that town." -3 year and 9 month service lists.
- 9) "Edgartown in accordance with the United States." List of "new furnished for military and naval services."
- 10) Names of new men of Edgartown in the naval services of the United States, but not entered on the Enrollment Lists, March 1864.
- 11) 1863 report for towns of Edgartown, Chilmark, and Tisbury. (Numbers, Quotas, exemptions, etc.).
- 12) New furnished volunteers of Edgartown (Military service). Date unknown, but has Charlie Mac. Vincent. List contains 9 month and 3 year commitments.

- 13) Photocopy of United States Volunteer Enlistment List. (Very similar or same as #7 is this folder).
- 14) 2 Newspaper articles about Harry F. Castello, lone survivor of the G.A.R on the island at this time, 1931.
1 Newspaper article about Harry F. Castello, 1930.
- 15) Note with obituary information on Cyrus B. Fisher and Frank H. Sanders.
- 16) Log Book containing cannon firing data, likely from the U.S.S Ethan Allen.
- 17) Address of Welcome to the 1st Regiment, Mass. Volunteer Infantry, given by Gov. John A. Andrew, May 25, 1864.
- 18) 3 newspaper articles. 2 dealing with a Col. Warren E. Sweetser, (I don't think had anything to do with the Civil War); 1 dealing with letters from soldiers to the newspaper back home-dates 1910's.
- 19) A *Vineyard Gazette* article, June 3, 1920 about Memorial Day concerning G.A.R men.
- 20) Note card and small obituary article on Capt. or Col. Welcome A. Crafts, from New Hampshire. For some reason the note card is a quote from the *Vineyard Gazette*, December 26, 1862.
- 21) List of Mass. Volunteers for 3 years, no names other than Commanders. Also states the regiment commanded by this person. Francis Vincent signed this.
- 22) List of Edgartown Volunteers in 1862. (58 total).
- 23) Article concerning the Red Cross War Fund.
- 24) Town of Tisbury, Town Meeting reports from 1862-1864.
- 25) A two page letter or speech, un-addressed, unsigned, and undated. The towns of Edgartown and Tisbury are looking for their Quotas for supplying men for duty in the armed services and navy of the U.S. (On other side of paper, name R.L Pease written followed by "about army and Navy men".)-so he wrote it.
- 26) List of Edgartown Volunteers in 1862. (Same as # 22 in this folder).
- 27) List of men belonging to the Vineyard who served in the Navy during the Civil War.
-Could be catalogued as 42.163^b.
- 28) List of men mustered from Edgartown prior to May 19, 1863.

List of men mustered from Edgartown since May 19, 1863 as well. Signed by selectmen, August 2, 1864. – Could be catalogued as 49.18.

- 29) List of men “belonging or credited to the Vineyard” who served in the Army during the Civil War - Could be catalogued as 42.16.22.
- 30) Certificate of mustering officer- Francis L. Budlong, of Tisbury, June 7, 1864.
- 31) Certificate of mustering officer- Joseph Scotchard, of Tisbury, 4th Reg. June 21, 1864.
He was killed at Petersburg, Va.
- 32) U.S. Volunteer Enlistment list. Edgartown, 1862 (Refer to #7 in this folder).
- 33) Certificate of mustering officer-John M. Coffee, of Tisbury, June 16, 1864.
- 34) Certificate of mustering officer-John Hall of Tisbury, June 15, 1864.
- 35) Certificate of mustering officer-Charles C. Filley, of Tisbury, June 9, 1864.
- 36) Certificate of mustering officer-John Millbank, of Tisbury, June 14, 1864.
- 37) Certificate of mustering officer-Thomas McInney, of Tisbury, June 13, 1864.
- 38) Certificate of mustering officer-Philip Brown of Tisbury, June 11, 1864. (Not in Banks).
- 39) Certificate of mustering officer-Charles Milligan, of Tisbury, June 18, 1864.
- 40) Certificate of mustering officer-Richard Gibson of Tisbury, June 11, 1864. (Not in Banks).
- 41) Certificate of mustering officer-John Simons of Tisbury, June 18, 1864.
- 42) Certificate of mustering officer-Samuel Todd, of Tisbury, June 13, 1864.
- 43) Certificate of mustering officer, “Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Adjutant-General’s Office” –S.M. Norton (Shubuel) of Tisbury, August 28, 1863.
- 44) Certificate of mustering officer, “Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Adjutant-General’s Office” –Mustered out-John Heft of Tisbury, January 10, 1867, due to disability.
- 45) A letter written by the Edgartown Selectmen to the Provost Marshal General Fry concerning drafted whalemens, June 18, 1864.

Folder labeled 4A

- 1) Newspaper article about Richard Holland, who painted and sketched Civil War scenes

- 2) Map from National Park service of Civil War.
- 3) Photocopies of 2 pages from a book describing the Alabama's overtaking of the Ocmulgee.
- 4) G.A.R. War Songs for anniversaries and gatherings of soldiers, Oliver Ditson Company, Boston 1883.
- 5) Paper describing gifts from Civil War era to the museum.

White Folder-labeled 4B

- 1) Photograph of Calvin Hervey Wilbur (790).
- 2) Photograph or portrait of Joseph Wilbur (790) 35.15.3.
- 3) Photograph (Copied) William Cooke Pease (763).
- 4) Photograph (Copied) "Cap'n George Fred" –Naval Reserves (780).
- 5) Photograph (Copied) Cyrus Pease (763).
- 6) Portrait or painting of Thos M. Peakes (763).
- 7) Photograph of Herbert Winfield (Spear?) taken 1893, (775).

Green folder-labelled 4C

- 1) 2 photos of Leander Bradley.
- 2) An 1850 census on Bradley Family with photocopies of the above pictures.
- 3) Photograph of Major Anderson.
- 4) Photograph and photocopy of Capt. Aaron D. Littlefield of Edgartown.
- 5) Photograph of Capt. Aaron D. Littlefield.
- 6) Photograph of Joseph Dana Bullen-killed in Civil War.
- 7) Sketch of "The Wood School" by Horance Lovell, a Vineyard school teacher. Mr. Lovell went to the old school as a pupil and taught in the building that supplanted it. Joseph Bana Bullen (Previous note) taught there.
- 8) Photograph of S. B. Luce, a Captain. –No record of being in war.
- 9) Photograph of Rev. Mr. Coombs, Alonzo D. Fisher, Elihu Bunker, Joseph Wilbur, Captain W. Failing, Judge B. T. Hillman. Taken by James E. Chadwick.
- 10) Photograph- 3 unidentified men on a boat. (704).
- 11) Photograph-unidentified man (705) -catalogued 93.59.5.

- 12) Photograph of Harry C. Jones (740) -Not in Banks.
- 13) Photograph-Captain Aaron D. Littlefield. (744) 54.16.16.
- 14) Photograph- H. M Costello (717) 81.17.
- 15) Photograph of General Grant with another photograph of an unidentified woman on the backside. Picture once hung in the *Monahasett*.
- 16) Photograph of "The officers of the Cutter Dexter."

Folder 490

- 1) General Order No 43 of Commonwealth of Mass, Sep 1st 1862 announcing the draft.
- 2) Return of Military aid form for month of November 1879 for town of Tisbury.
- 3) Return of Military aid form for month of October 1878 for town of Tisbury.
- 4) Newspaper clipping, *Henry Ward Beecher on the Flag* from during the Civil War.
- 5) Letter from Office of Commissioners of State Aid dealing with state aid to soldiers in Mass Soldiers Home, dated May 10 1883.
- 6) General Order No 49 of Commonwealth of Mass, Dec 7 1864, districting state into Military Districts for enlistment purposes.
- 7) Will of Thomas W. Cook giving power of attorney to Isaiah G Roy. Cook served on U.S. Steamer Whitehead from Dec 1st 1861 to Dec 1st 1862 dated Feb 14 1863.
- 8) Original copy of Discharge of David E. Cook who served in Company D of the Battalion of U.S. engineers. Dated Nov 2nd 1864.
- 9) Document from Office Acting Assistant Provost Marshall General dated June 11 1864 Boston, to the Provost Marshall 1st district Mass listing men from island sworn into service.
- 10) List from the Selectman's Office Tisbury listing the names of those who have enlisted in the United States Service and the number of the regiments of which they joined dated Sept 25 1862.
- 11) Copy (copy dated 1879) of discharge of John N Luce from 3rd Regiment Company II Mass Heavy Artillery, dated Sept 26 1865.
- 12) Muster Roll of Captain George R Hurlbut of the F Company in the 3rd regiment of the 2nd Brigade of Mass Militia dated Sept 19 1862 for men serving 9 month term.

13) Letter from H.W.N. Welch to Thomas Williams telling Williams he is exempt from Military Service.

14) These were in same envelope.

-Document from Adjunct General's office dated Oct 9 1874 listing Shubael M Norton of Tisbury date enlisted and which company he was in.

-Letter from selectman of Braintree stating that Shubael M Norton was paid his bounty for military service, dated October 9 1874.

These were fastened together:

-copy of the receipt from town of Braintree sum of 125\$ paid to Shubael M Norton.

-copy of order to Town Treasurer of Braintree to pay Shubael M Norton 125\$ date October 13 1862.

15) Letter to Charles G Blakes provost Marshall General dated Dec 10 1862 stating the costs of bounties paid to enlisted men and other costs for town of Tisbury.

16) Letter to Mrs Thomas N Williams from Toluna Fish describing his travels and a battle he had seen.

Appendix C –List of Bellum Artifacts

#	Accession #	Description of Artifact	Notes
1	24.30	Pieces of Union & Rebel Uniforms	Small squares of fabric; "No Acc"
2	34.1.1	Civil War writing kit (open & closed)	wrapped in paper; cylindrical
3	35.48.2	sword; possibly Bellum; unnoted on acc card.	table of swords
4	41.22.2	US Navy shaving kit	Round box on middle shelf
5	54.16.13	Union & GAR insignia	box marked "No Accession"
6	55.3.216	Civil War Canteen	W/ other canteens. #d
7	58.32	Civil War surgeon's kit	under GAR hats
8	65.6.14	Large collection under one acc #, as follows:	
		5 swords	1 whalebone handle; 4 metal
		1 bayonet	
		1 double-barrel shotgun	
		1 rifle	
		2 dark blue GAR hats	possibly from item 13?
		2 army canteens	
9	72.16.10 & 11	Shoulder patches	"From F.J. Heiberger" box

#	Accession #	Description of Artifact	Notes
10	72.16.12 & 13	Two epaulettes; gold braid on black velvet	"From F.J. Heiberger" box
11	72.16.14	Red waist sash	"From F.J. Heiberger" box
12	72.16.16 & 17	Pieces to be screwed into the top of a helmet. 3d piece missing.	"From F.J. Heiberger" box
13	72.16.21 (a,b,c)	Pieces of gold braid used in chevrons	"From F.J. Heiberger" box
14	81.28	Children's zouave uniform	costume room
15	unknown	Large violin case; found in river; unopenable	on left under eaves
16	unknown	Field desk	large box near drum
17	unknown	3 GAR hats (no acc. #; may have already been noted)	trash bag on bottom shelf
18	unknown	Civil War Buttons & insignia	box marked "No Accession"
19	unknown	GAR Roster (may not be MV)	box marked "No Accession"

Appendix D – The New Card Catalogue

Box 35, Folder #1

Newspaper clippings and obituary notices (green)

- Env 1) Copy of the letter written by the Selectmen of the island urging other town officials to convene in Boston for a rebellion against the State due to inadequate disbursement of funds.
- Env 2) *The Vineyard Gazette*; June 3, 1920; special Memorial Day article w/ info on GAR veterans
- Env 3) Newspaper article, (unidentified newspaper) *The Draft for the First Congressional District*. Includes Edgartown, Nantucket, Chilmark, and Tisbury.
- Env 4) [2] Newspaper articles about Harry F. Castello, lone survivor of the G.A.R on the island at this time, 1931.
- Env 5) Newspaper article about Richard Holland-who painted and sketched Civil War scenes
- Env 6) Newspaper clipping, *Henry Ward Beecher on the Flag* from during the Civil War
- Env 7) Article concerning the Red Cross 'War Fund. (I'd think Red Cross came well after Civil War)
- Env 8) Capt. Welcome A. Crafts; quote from *Vineyard Gazette*. Dec 26, 1862; & obituary article.
- Env 9) 1 Newspaper article about Harry F. Castello, 1930.
- Env 10) Note with obituary information on Cyrus B. Fisher and Frank H. Sanders.

Muster and enlistment certifications and muster lists(Purple) Box 35

This is a three part (folder) section.

Box 35; Folder #2

- Env. 1A) Typed list of 58 men furnished by the town of Edgartown in 1862
- Env. 1B) Duplicate of 1A
- Env. 1C) Duplicate of 1A

- Env. 2) A reproduced Roll Call of all Civil War Veterans of Edgartown, Massachusetts.
- Env. 3) List of men from Edgartown who were in either the Navy or Army
- Env. 4) Enlistment Roll for Commonwealth of Massachusetts, M.V.M, Edgartown, 1862
- Env. 5A) United States Volunteer Enlistment List, Edgartown, August 1862
- Env. 5B) Photocopy of 5A
- Env. 6) United States Volunteer Enlistment List, Edgartown, August 1862
- Env. 7) List of "men furnished by Edgartown for military service of the United States but not duly accredited to that town." –3-year and 9-month service lists
- Env. 8) New furnished volunteers of Edgartown (Military service). Date unknown. List contains 9-month and 3-year commitments.
- Env. 9) "Edgartown in accordance with the United States." List of "new furnished for military and naval services."
- Env. 10) Names of new men of Edgartown in the naval services of the United States, but not entered on the Enrollment Lists, March 1864.
- Env. 11) "The names of men borne on the Enrollment Lists of the town of Edgartown, Massachusetts, who before the 24th day of February, 1864 had entered the naval service of the United States..." Signed by Edgartown Selectmen and the Justice of the Peace.
- Env. 12) A letter from Edgartown's Selectmen to "His excellency, John A. Andrew" (Present Governor). A list of "Named persons, citizens of Edgartown, may have entered the naval services of the United States..."
- Env. 13) List of men belonging to the Vineyard who served in the Navy during the Civil War. –Numbered 42.163^b.
- Env. 14) List of men "belonging or credited to the Vineyard" who served in the Army during the Civil War – Numbered 42.16.22.
- Env. 15A) List of men mustered from Edgartown prior to May 19, 1863.
List of men mustered from Edgartown since May 19, 1863 as well. Signed by selectmen, August 2, 1864. –Numbered 49.18.
- Env. 15B) A draft of 15A

- Env. 16) "List of those who served in the Civil War who were, have been, or now are men of Edgartown." Army and Navy, 8 pages total. Prepared by Harriet Pease-Genealogist, Dec. 1900.
- Env. 17) Paper with facts on the number of men furnished by Edgartown, and how they were recorded wrongly on their Descriptive and/or their Muster Roll.
- Env. 18) A roster of Officers, including Names, Hometown, Date of Commission, Date of Discharge, and reason for discharge.
- Env. 19) List of men with some dates, ranks, and locality.
- Env. 20) List of Mass. Volunteers for 3 years, no names other than Commanders. Also states the regiment commanded by this person. Francis Vincent signed this.
- Env. 21) List of men with Company letters and Regiment numbers, with occasional facts
- Env. 22) List of men drafted from Edgartown. 2 Pages containing July, 1863; May 13, 1864; June 11, 1864; July 6, 1864.
- Env. 23) List from the Selectman's Office Tisbury listing the names of those who have enlisted in the United States Service and the number of the regiments of which they joined dated Sept 25 1862
- Env. 24) Muster Lists for 9 months, on September 19, 1862
- Env. 25) List of men drafted from Edgartown, Chilmark, and Tisbury on June 11, 1864 to supply deficiencies.
- Env. 26) 1862-63 report for towns of Edgartown, Chilmark, and Tisbury. (Numbers, Quotas, exemptions, etc.)
- Env. 27) Station Bill, U.S. Bark *Ethan Allen*
- Env. 28) List of 58 men mustered from Edgartown in 1862
- Env. 29) Martha's Vineyard Draft List of 156 men. Year unknown

Box 35; Folder 3

- Env. 1) Muster certification of Thos. F. McKenna by Orville W. Leonard, Capt Co. C., 42nd Rgt. Oct 11, 1862
- Env. 2) Muster certification of George Gray and Isaiah S. Coombs. Oct 14, 1862

- Env. 3) Enlistment certification of John Brown by Capt. Joseph H. Collins. Signed by Alfred N. Proctor, ___ Co. G., 42nd Rgt. Sept 23, 1862
- Env. 4) Muster certification of Michael Farley, John O'Brien, Timother Laffet, Peter McCaulley to the 55th Rgt. Signed by ___, Mustering Officer. Sept 25, 1862
- Env. 5) Muster certification of Samuel Pent by William Logan Rodman, 2nd Lieut, Recruiting Officer. Aug 15, 1862
- Env. 6) Enlistment certification of William Sniffle by Capt. A. Chamberlin, 1st Rgt. Aug 30, 1862
- Env. 7) Enlistment certification of Thomas Matthews, James O'Shaughnessy, John Barnes, William H. Elli, John Hatham by George Sherrie, Capt. Co. D. 42nd Rgt. Sept 26, 1862
- Env. 8) Muster certification for Benjamin S.C. Dowling by the Selectmen of Edgartown. Aug 16, 1862
- Env. 9) Enlistment certification for Charles B. Wilson by ___, Justice of the Peace. Oct 11, 1862
- Env. 10) Enlistment certification for Charles B. Wilson, signed by Charles F. ___, Major Provost Marshall. Oct 11, 1862
- Env. 11) Muster certification for Jamels M. Tilton, John Fisher, James Smith, Jethro Worth, Joseph A. Ripley, Joseph H. Wilbur, Edward E. Beetle by George R. Hurlbut, Capt. Co. F., 73rd Rgt. Sept 19, 1862
- Env. 12) Enlistment certification of Thomas Gahergin by A. Chamberlin, Recruiting officer. Sept 11, 1862
- Env. 13) Muster certification for Damon Y. Norton by S. W. Burstead, Capt. Co. D., 45th Rgt. Oct 9, 1862
- Env. 14) Muster certification of Richard Shute by Capt. Henry F. Danforth. Aug 26, 1862
- Env. 15) Muster certification of E. B. Morse by Joseph Murdock, Capt. Co. C. Aug 26, 1862
- Env. 16) Muster certification of John Carr by W.H. Bartlett, Capt. Co. K., 4th Rgt. Sept 12, 1862
- Env. 17) Enlistment certification of Alonzo Ripley (performed by David Davis, Justice of the Peace) by Capt. Henry F. Danforth, 40th Rgt. Sept 2, 1862

- Env. 18) Muster certification and bounty order for Elihu M. Bunker by Capt. Henry F. Danforth. Aug 26, 1862
- Env. 19) Muster certification of Francis Pease, Jr., by Capt. Henry F. Danforth. Aug 26, 1862
- Env. 20) Muster certification of Francis Norton and William Howe by M.S. Cobb, Capt. Co. G., 3rd Rgt. Oct 2, 1862
- Env. 21) Muster certification and bounty order of William H. Harrington by Capt. Henry F. Danforth. Aug 26, 1862
- Env. 22) Enlistment certification of Louis Briand by Capt. George Sherrie, 42nd Rgt. Oct 10, 1862
- Env. 23) Enlistment certification of Christopher Smith by Capt. George Sherrie. Oct 6, 1862
- Env. 24) Muster certification for Robert Leitch and James O'Connell by James Roger, Capt. 55th Rgt.
- Env. 25) Muster certification of Patrick Devine by James Rogers, Capt. 55th Rgt. Oct 7, 1862
- Env. 26) Enlistment certification of William Thompson by Capt. Davis W. Bailey, Co. H., 42nd Rgt. Sept 29, 1862
- Env. 27) Muster certification and bounty order of Benjamin Smith by Capt. Henry F. Danforth. Aug 26, 1862
- Env. 28) Muster certification of David Gracy and James Gorman by Charles A. Davis, Adjutant 42nd Rgt.
- Env. 29) Muster certification of William Smith, Chauncey Smith, Leonard Clark, William Totten, Enoch Cornell, Marcus Smith, John Dindy and Carl Dart by Capt. A.S. Chamberlin, 1st Rgt. Sept 1, 1862

Box 35; Folder 4

- Env. 1) Certificate of mustering officer- Francis L. Budlong, of Tisbury, June 7, 1864.
- Env. 2) Certificate of mustering officer- Joseph Scotchard, of Tisbury, 4th Reg. June 21, 1864. He was killed at Petersburg, Va.
- Env. 3) Certificate of mustering officer-John M. Coffee, of Tisbury, June 16, 1864.
- Env. 4) Certificate of mustering officer-John Hall of Tisbury, June 15, 1864.
- Env. 5) Certificate of mustering officer-Charles C. Filley, of Tisbury, June 9, 1864.
- Env. 6) Certificate of mustering officer-John Millbank, of Tisbury, June 14, 1864.
- Env. 7) Certificate of mustering officer-Thomas McIrney, of Tisbury, June 13, 1864.
- Env. 8) Certificate of mustering officer-Philip Brown of Tisbury, June 11, 1864. (Not in Banks)
- Env. 9) Certificate of mustering officer-Charles Milligan, of Tisbury, June 18, 1864.
- Env. 10) Certificate of mustering officer-Richard Gibson of Tisbury, June 11, 1864. (Not in Banks)
- Env. 11) Certificate of mustering officer-John Simons of Tisbury, June 18, 1864.
- Env. 12) Certificate of mustering officer-Samuel Todd, of Tisbury, June 13, 1864.
- Env. 13) Certificate of mustering officer, "Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Adjutant-General's Office" -S.M. Norton (Shubuel) of Tisbury, August 28, 1863.
- Env. 14) Certificate of mustering officer, "Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Adjutant-General's Office" -Mustered out-S.M. Norton, August 28, 1863.
- Env. 15) Certificate of mustering officer, "Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Adjutant-General's Office" -Mustered out-John Heft of Tisbury, January 10, 1867, due to disability.
- Env. 16) Document from Adjunct General's office dated Oct 9 1874 listing Shubael M Norton of Tisbury being paid \$125.
- Env. 17) A Provisional Commission to Samuel Pent, of Edgartown. September 8, 1864.

- Env. 18) The Dishcharge paper of Samuel Pent, December 18, 1865
- Env. 19) Original copy of Discharge of David E. Cook who served in Company D of the Battalion of U.S. engineers. Dated Nov 2nd 1864
- Env. 20) Copy (copy dated 1879) of discharge of John N Luce from 3rd Regiment Company II Mass Heavy Artillery, dated Sept 26 1865
- Env. 21) Military Commendation to Capt. G.R. Hurlburt, Co. F. 3rd Mass. Volunteers.
355.1 H pamph Box35

Folder 1; Box 35.1

Official Documents Contracts (Red)

- Env 1) Negro passport, of the Confederate States of America; Richmond, 1865. 76.25
Box 35
- Env 2) Orders to acting ensign Daniel Stark, Nov 20, 1864
Other documents dealing with the same.
- Env 3) List of bounty quotas, 1862
- "Executive Order" to provide reimbursement of bounties paid to Volunteers, and to apportion and assess a tax therefore.
- Env 4) Civil War orders to Edwin Coffin, Acting Master, U.S.S. Adela; Feb-June, 1865
- Env 5) Letter to Charles G Blakes provost Marshall General dated Dec 10 1862 stating the costs of bounties paid to enlisted men and other costs for town of Tisbury
- Env 6) Copy of order to Town Treasurer of Braintree to pay Shubael M Norton 125\$
date October 13 1862
- Env 7) Copy of the receipt from town of Braintree sum of 125\$ paid to Shubael M Norton
- Env 8) Letter from H.W.N. Welch to Thomas Williams telling Williams he is exempt from Military Service
- Env 9) Document from Office Acting Assistant Provost Marshall General dated June 11 1864 Boston, to the Provost Marshall 1st district Mass listing men from island sworn into service
- Env 10) Letter from Office of Commisioners of State Aid dealing with state aid to soldiers in Mass Soldiers Home, dated May 10 1883.

- Env 11) General Order No 49 of Commonwealth of Mass, Dec 7 1864, districting state into Military Districts for enlistment purposes
- Env 12) Will of Thomas W. Cook giving power of attorney to Isaiah G Roy. Cook served on U.S. Steamer Whitehead from Dec 1st 1861 to Dec 1st 1862 dated Feb 14 1863
- Env 13) General Order No 43 of Commonwealth of Mass, Sep 1st 1862 announcing the draft
- Env 14) Return of Military aid form for month of November 1879 for town of Tisbury
- Env 15) Return of Military aid form for month of October 1878 for town of Tisbury
- Env 16) Photocopy of 1850 census for the Bradley family
- Env 17) "Article of Agreement for Surgeon's Steward" signed by John Bell Smith; witnessed by George Cooke, Asst. Surgeon, U.S.N.
- Env 18) Permission slip for military enlistment for William A. P. Totten, signed by Love Marcy, his mother. Aug 26, 1862
- Env 19) Receipt of \$250 bounty by John Carr. Sept 29, 1862
- Env 20) Letter allotting \$250 to Abraham Fisher from George L. Fisher. Apr 27, 1862
- Env 21) Contract for the sale of a boat between Benjamin S.C. Dowling and the Selectmen of Edgartown. Aug 16, 1862

Folder 2, Box 35.1

National Archive Copies (orange)

- Env 1) Box 35.1; 94.67 Reproduced National Archives Records.
- Env 2) Box 35.1; 94.77.4 Benjamin Luce records, various, copied at the National Archives
- Env 3) Box 35.1; 94.77.5 Benjamin Norton Luce, (#1163), copied at the National Archives
- Env 4) Box 35.1; 94.77.6 James Wilbur Jr. (#18), copied at the National Archives

- Env 5) Box 35.1;94.77.3 Peleg B. Davenport b1836, copied at the National Archives
- Env 6) Box 35.1; 94.77.2 Wilbur James, copied at the National Archives
- Env 7) Box 35.1; 94.77.1 Barzillai Crowell (# 160), copied at the National Archives
- Env 8) Box 35.1; 94.77.7 Francis E. Curtis, copied at the National Archives
- Env 9) Box 35.1; 94.77.7 Barzilla Crowell, copied at the National Archives

Box 35.2

Letters, Diaries, and log books (Brown)

Folder 1) Diary of Charles Mac. Vincent, 2 copies. In its own folder. W/ transcriber's page (transcribed)

Folder 2, Env 1) A Hand Book of the United States Navy, From April 1861-May 1864. Compiled and Arranged by B. S. Osbon. (photocopy).

Folder 2, Env 2) Transcribed diary kept by Sidney O. Brown, U.S. Navy aboard the naval vessel U.S.S. *Mohaska* from April 24, 1862-Dec. 31, 1862. Transcribed by Art Railton, November 2-4, 1994.

Folder 2, Env 3) Copied Diary of Sidney O. Brown, U.S. Navy-Civil War. May 1862-Dec. 31, 1862.

Env 1) Large envelope containing four envelopes full of Charles MacReading Vincent, to his father and other family members. 974.42 V9.19 Box 35

Folder 3, Box 35.2

Env 1) Page one of a letter written by the wife of Frederick Crocker of Edgartown who was the commander of the U.S. Steamer *Cifton* at the time it was captured. She is plying (?) to see if an exchange can be made with the Confederates to get him back. No Date, no Addressee

Env 2) Travel information of the 40th MA infantry

Env 3) List of "Supplies furnished by Edgartown Ladies for Soldiers". – Accounting data.

Env 4) Typewritten copy of a letter by Thomas M. Peakes, to the secretary of the Navy.
Dec 2, 1862. 974.42 P5.1 pamph Box 35

Env 5) Francis P. Vincent Diaries (2). 54.13.1&2

Env 6) Civil War diary of John W. Mayhew. Box 35 Env. 6

Env 7) A letter by John L. McCollum to his mom, Dec. 30, 1886.

Env 8) Letter to Mrs Thomas N Williams from Toluna Fish describing his travels and a battle he had seen

Env 9) Log Book containing cannon firing data, likely from the U.S.S. *Ethan Allen*.

Env 10) Letter from Faxhall A. Parker, Cmdr of the Potomac Flotilla, to Senior Officer W. Lickes. May 11, 1865

Env 11) Letter from W.H. Bartlett, Capt. Co. K., 4th Rgt, to Mr. Marchant. Sept 14, 1862

Folder 1, Box 35.3

Bellum pamphlets, books, speeches, and addresses + songs (blue)

Env 1) Pamphlet of *Confederate Commerce Destroyers* (Georgia and Shenandoah).
Morgan, James Morris. 639 M15.18 2 Box 35

Env 2) The United States Conscription Law of 1863, or National Militia Act.

Env 3) Note from Jefferson Davis addressed to the senate and house of representatives, concerning a communication from the Secretary of War. Jan 7, 1864.

Env 4) Rally Poster

Env 5) "Information for Army Meetings": U.S. Commission, August, 1864. Box 35

Env 6) "A Call to my Countrywomen." From the *Atlantic Monthly* for March 1863.
973.3; Atl.; Box 35

Env 7) [2] copies of "Three weeks at Gettysburg." Anson, D.F. Randolph, New York: 1863.

Env 8) Civil War songs, mostly published and sold by Horace Partridge, Boston.
Box 35 Acc. No. 71.69

- Env 9) Photocopies of 2 pages from a book describing the *Alabama's* overtaking of the *Ocmulgee*.
- Env 10) G.A.R. War Songs for anniversaries and gatherings of soldiers, Oliver Ditson Company, Boston 1883.
- Env 11) A letter written by the Edgartown Selectmen to the Provost Marshal General Fry concerning drafted whalemens, June 18, 1864.
- Env 12) A two page letter or speech, un-addressed, unsigned, and undated. The towns of Edgartown and Tisbury are looking for their Quotas for supplying men for duty in the armed services and navy of the U.S. (On other side of paper, name R.L Pease written followed by "about army and Navy men".)-so he wrote it.
- Env 13) Address of Welcome to the 1st Regiment, Mass. Volunteer Infantry, given by Gov. John A. Andrew, May 25, 1864.
- Env 14) Pamphlet, "The Merrimac and Monitor Naval Engagement Illustrated". Cor. Madison Ave and 59th St, New York, 1886
- Env 15) Pamphlet, "Sanitary Commission No. 77, Fifth Report". Oct 1, 1863
 Author: Fred. N. Knapp, Special Relief Agent
 Recipient: Dr. J. Foster Jenkins, General Secretary, U.S. Sanitary Com'n
- Env 16) Pamphlet, "Official Souvenir Program of the 24th National Encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic, Boston, Mass. August, 1890." Issued under the authority of the executive Com. Of the Nat. Encampment. By Geo. H. Richards, Jr. & Co., Jewellers, 383 Washington St., Boston.
- Env 17) Pamphlet, "The Battle of Gettysburg: How to See and Understand It. The Tourist's Guide and Hand-Book with explanatory map and roster of the armies". By L.W. Minnigh. Map included
- Env 18) "The Grand Army of the Republic. An Address Delivered Before the Veterans of Dukes County, At Edgartown, Massachusetts, May 30, 1889, By Hosea M. Knowlton".
- Env 19) Various documents from David Ripley Rockafellar, Co. E7, N.Y. d.1864
 Including: List of Hooker's battles
 Pages from American Tract Society – "Friendly Conversation"

Folder 2, Box 35.3

Photographs, and sketches (pink)

- Env 1) Photograph of Herbert Winfield Spears taken 1893, (775)
- Env 2) Portrait or painting of Thos M. Peakes (763)
- Env 3) Photograph (Copied) Cyrus Pease (763)
- Env 4) Photograph (Copied) "Cap'n George Fred" –Naval Reserves (780)
- Env 5) Photograph (Copied) William Cooke Pease (763)
- Env 6) Photograph or portrait of Joseph Wilbur (790) 35.15.3
- Env 7) Photograph of Calvin Harvey Wilbur (790)
- Env 8) Photograph of "The officers of the Cutter Dexter."
- Env 9) Photograph of "The officers of the Cutter Dexter."
- Env 10) Photograph of "The officers of the Cutter Dexter."
- Env 11) Photograph of General Grant and an unidentified woman on the backside.
Picture once hung in the *Monahansett*.
- Env 12) Photograph- H. M. Costello (717) 81.17
- Env 13) Photograph and photocopy of Capt. Aaron D. Littlefield of Edgartown.
- Env 14) Photograph of Harry C. Jones (740) -Not in Banks
- Env 15) [3] photographs of Dr. Winthrop Butler
- Env 16) Photograph-unidentified man (705) -catalogued 93.59.5
- Env 17) Photograph- 3 unidentified men on a boat. (704)
- Env 18) Photograph of Rev. Mr. Coombs, Alonzo D. Fisher, Elihu Bunker, Joseph Wilbur, Captain W. Failing, Judge B. T. Hillman. Taken by James E. Chadwick.
- Env 19) Photograph of Capt. S.B. Luce, USN
- Env 20) Sketch of "The Wood School" by Horance Lovell, a Vineyard school teacher.
Mr. Lovell went to the old school as a pupil and taught in the building that supplanted it.
Joseph Bana Bullen (Previous note) taught there.
- Env 21) Photograph of Joseph Dana Bullen-killed in Civil War.

- Env 22) Photograph of Capt. Aaron D. Littlefield.
- Env 23) Photograph of Capt. Aaron D. Littlefield.
- Env 24) Photocopy of photograph of Capt. Aaron D. Littlefield.
- Env 25) Photograph of Major Anderson
- Env 26) Two photographs of Leander Bradley

Folder 3, Box 35.3

Retrospective Historical Writings (yellow)

- Env 1) Photocopy of "Martha's Vineyard in the Civil War," a paper written by Mrs. Andrews at Bridgewater State Teachers' College. Box 35 inside envelope: 974.42;S20.5;pamph;Box 35
- Env 2) Extracts (photocopies) from The Twentieth Regiment of Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry, 1861-1865. By Lt. Col. George A. Bruce, 1906.
- Env 3) List of Edgartown heroes in the Civil War. Prepared by Harriet Marshall Pease, Genealogist, Edgartown, Martha's Vineyard, 1901.
- Env 4) [2] Photocopies of extracts from Banks, Vol. 1, highlighting Vineyarders who served with the 20th regiment of Mass. Volunteers.
- Env 5) Photocopy of article dealing w/ 20th MA rgt.
- Env 6) Copy of letters written between historical society and a Nantucket man about M.V. men serving in a largely Nantucket manned regiment. Box 35

Arbo stuff (black; not catalogued.)

- 1) Town of Tisbury, Town Meeting reports from 1862-1864.
- 2) Map from National Park service of Civil War.
- 3) Paper describing gifts from Civil War era to the museum.

4) Citizens Committee (Tisbury) Re: Civil War Recruits and Substitutes.

974.42 CW Box 35 Env. 6

5) NOT CIVIL WAR MATERIAL 1) Pension Records-1820 & earlier.
2) Note eulogizing Capt. William C. Pease, U.S.
Revenue Service.

Appendix E - List of Charles Vincent's Location Paralleled With Major Civil War Events

Year	Month	Where was Charlie?	Important events at that time
1861	Apr	home	War breaks out with the Bombardment of Fort Sumter
	Jul	home	First Battle of Bull Run or Manassas
	Sep	home	Lexington besieged
1862	Mar	home	First engagement of U.S.S <i>Monitor</i> and the C.S.S. <i>Merrimac</i>
	Apr	home	Battle of Shiloh
	Jun	home	Mechanicsville, Gaines' Mill, and the Seven Days Campaign
	Aug	home	Second Bull Run or Manassas
	Sep	Charlie Enlists in the U.S Army	Battle of Antietam
	Oct	Minor's Hill, Va.	Battle at Perryville, Kentucky
	Nov	Minor's Hill, Va.	Grant moves on Vicksburg
	Dec	Minor's Hill, Va.	Lee holds off Burnside at Marye's Heights, Battles at Vicksburg
	1863	Jan	Minor's Hill, Va.
Feb		Hunter's Chapel, Va.	Not much action on land, but Navies battle
Mar		Virginia	Raiding in Virginia and Kentucky
Apr		Virginia	Intense raiding in the West
May		Virginia	Chancellorsville
Jun		White House Landing, VA	Lee's Army moves into the North
Jul		Maryland peninsula	Gettysburg
Aug		Folly and Morris Island, S.C	More bombardment of forts Wagner and Sumter
Sep		Folly Island, S.C.	Battle of Chickamauga
Oct		Minor's Hill, Va.	More fighting in the West
Nov		Folly Island, S.C.	Chattanooga secured by the Federals, Missionary Ridge
Dec		Folly Island, S.C.	More raiding from Mississippi to Florida
1864		Jan	Hilton Head, S.C.
	Feb	Jacksonville, Fla.	Intensity of raiding is picked up
	Mar	Jacksonville, Fla.	More raiding from Mississippi to Florida
	Apr	Jacksonville, Fla.	Sabine Cross Roads and Pleasant Hills
	May	Bermuda Hundred, Va.	Union forces advance on Richmond
	Jun	Petersburg, Va.	more at Fredericksburg, Sherman advances toward Atlanta
	Jul	New Petersburg, Va.	Peachtree Creek
	Aug	Fortress Monroe, Va.	Sherman continues his success, more naval encounters
	Sep	Fortress Monroe, Va.	Continue movement on Richmond
	Oct	Bermuda Hundred, Va.	Fighting at Petersburg, last battle of the Shenandoah
	Nov	Bermuda Hundred, Va.	Lincoln Re-elected, Battle at Franklin, and Spring Hill, Tenn.
	Dec	Fortress Monroe, Va.	Sherman reaches Savannah
1865	Jan	Fortress Monroe, Va.	Fort Fisher in N.C. falls
	Feb	Fortress Monroe, Va.	Columbia and Charleston both fall to the Union forces
	Mar	Fortress Monroe, Va.	Bentonville, N.C., more raiding in the West
	Apr	Charlie at fall of Richmond	Richmond falls, Surrender of Lee at Appomattox Courthouse, Assassination of Lincoln

Appendix F - List of Dates of All Charlie Vincent's Letters

Oct 24, 1862
Nov 21, 1862
Dec 17, 1862
Dec 23, 1862
Jan 5, 1863
Jan 7, 1863
Jan 13, 1863
Jan 18, 1863
Jan 19, 1863
Jan 23, 1863
Jan 25, 1863
Feb 2, 1863
Feb 7, 1863
Feb 11, 1863
Feb 17, 1863
Feb 22, 1863
Sep 9, 1863
Oct 15, 1863
Oct 23, 1863
Oct 30, 1863
Nov 1, 1863
Nov 7, 1863
Nov 23, 1863
Nov 29, 1863
Dec 6, 1863
Dec 11, 1863
Dec 20, 1863
Dec 27, 1863

Mar 9, 1864
Mar 16, 1864
Mar 17, 1864
Mar 24, 1864
April 12, 1864
April 17, 1864
May 2, 1864
May 5 & 6, 1864
May 11, 1864
May 20, 1864
May 22, 1864
May 27, 1864
June 2, 1864
June 17, 1864
June 19, 1864
June 23, 1864
June 27, 1864
July 11-13, 1864
Jan 30, 1864
Jan 10, 1864
Jan 21, 1864
Jan 29, 1864 (Jan 30th)
Feb 5, 1864
Feb 18, 1864
Feb 22, 1864
Mar 1, 1864
Mar 3, 1864
Mar 7, 1864
July 19, 1864
July 30, 1864
Aug 9, 1864
Oct 1, 1864

Appendix G – The Cast of Charlie Vincent’s Letters

Charlie Mac Varlin-Charlie’s nickname ("Varlin" is never explained)

Francis, A.K.A, Frank-Charlie’s older brother

Freddie-Charlie’s younger brother

Ellen – Charlie's sister; mother of Gracie

Gracie-Charlie’s niece

Uncle Richard – Charlie’s uncle

Cousin Walter – Charlie’s cousin

Cousin Lizzie – Charlie’s cousin

Sarah Joy – one of Charlie's Edgartown sweethearts

Dick Shute – one of Charlie’s friends; Vineyard soldier

Frank Pease- one of Charlie’s friends; Vineyard soldier

Harrington- a fatality in Charlie’s division

Jesse Pease – Edgartown man

Tom Fisher – Edgartown man

Ben Ripley – Edgartown man

Lieut.’s Mussey & Sweet – officers from Edgartown

The *Peconic*- a riverboat on which some of Charlie’s friends served

The *Monohansett*- Vineyard ferry used in the war

Appendix H – The Charlie Vincent Letters

Headquarters Second Brigade
Abercrombies Division
Oct 24th 1862

Dear Father:-

You may be somewhat surprised at the heading of this Letter, and think that something is wrong but the truth of the affair is, that I am here acting as an Orderly to Gen. Cowdin. The office is nothing of any great account, yet it is quite important. All I have to do is to shop around the headquarters, and be on hand to carry any orders that it may be necessary to send to the different regiments comprising the Brigade.

I don't know wheather (sic) it is to be a permanent thing or not, yet. I came here yesterday morning and have not had much to do yet. I like it very well, so far.

I don't have to carry any gun, or equipments but my roundabout, or belt. If I shop here Long, I shall probably have a horse, an arrangement that will suit me very well. There is one other Orderly from our Regiment a member of Co. K by the name of Parker.

The headquarters are at an old house near Minor's Hill and are situated about a mile from the Camp of the Mass 40th. I went over to the Camp Last night and shopped and Reported back here this morning.

Gen. Cowdin our Brigade Commander, appears to be a fine man. He was formerly Colonel of the Mass 1st, and has Lately been promoted to his present command. I wrote you a short time ago that we were brigaded but it was only temperarily, and we have been this week, brigaded permanently. Our Brigade is the Second Brigade, of Abercrombie's Division, and is composed of the folling regiments. 40th Mass. 11th Rhode Island, 22nd Connecticut, 133d New York and Battery K, 4th Regular Artillery. the Rhode Island and Connecticut troops are nine months men, the others are three years men. We have got a crack brigade, all stout and good looking like myself. We intend to give the rebels fits when we find them.

The other day when the other three Reg'ts of our brigade arrived and were passing by our camp, out of the whole lot I saw but one man that I knew, and who should that be, but Rev. John P. Gould formerly of Edgartown, who is now Chaplain of the 11th Rhode Island Volunteers. I spoke to him, shook hands with him, and at first he did not know me, but I told him where I was from, and whose son I was, and he seemed to be very glad to see me and invited me over to his camp to visit him at any time. He was over to the 40th the other day to see us, but there was no one there of our boys, but Frank Pease and myself. He inquired about you and the friends, and wished me to send his respects when I wrote again. I have done so, as you will perceive.

The weather is quite fall like here now. We had a heavy Frost last night, which rendered mittens very acceptable. Speaking about mittens reminds me that I shall want a pair of soldiers mittens, pretty soon. Ellen knows how they should be knit, with a thumb and forefinger. I don't know but what I have written about them before, if I have it won't make any difference. My boots I shall want before a great while, as soon as the rainy season sets in, which will probably be before a great while.

I received your letter night before last, and you said that you had spoken to Sam Stuart about them. Hurry him up because you know it takes him a long while to do a

little. Be sure and have them double soled, and a tap outside of them, with iron heels and toes put on in good shape. When you send them, fill up all the space in the box with the necessaries of life, and if you haven't the necessaries, you may send some of the luxuries.

Tobacco is very high out here, having to pay the snug little sum of a dollar a pound for the best tobacco, and if you are a mind to, I wish you would send some. Say a pound or so and let me know what it is there.

Thanks to the good care of a mother and sister, as well as other friends. I am well provided with most everything that is necessary, with the exception of what I have requested in this letter.

How long we shall stop here I don't know, but the prospecks (sic) are now that we shall stop for two or three weeks at best, and perhaps all winter. As soon as we have anything decisive we shall build huts or barracks for winter quarters.

I was down to the cook house the other day and what should I see but a piece of codfish lying there, it immediately reminded me of what Edgar told me that Jim Coombs told him, that he wanted fish and potatoes when he was going to run the press. I have no doubt that Edgar told me the truth, because I never knew him to lie. Edgar told me, earnestly, that Jim told him one day when they were at work in the office, that when he was going to run the press, he always wanted fish and potatoes for dinner. That is about the truth of the story, as I was told.

You expressed a wish in your letter that you would like to see me at home for two or three days, if not more. I assure you that I should like to very much, but my business is such that I cannot well leave, just now. I shall come in and see you as soon as I ca (sic) be spared, but that will probably be some time yet.

Vincent will return in good season, I hope, right side up with care.

Love to all the numerous relatives of my acquaintance. A double portion of the spirit to you, mother, brother, sister and niece. I want to see Gracie as much as any member of the household, and this I say without any disparagement, whatever to the rest "on ye".

Nothing else of interest occurs to me just now, so I guess I will close for this time. More soon.

Believe me to be your affectionate son

Brothers Charlie Mac. Varlin
In + Bennie Mac Farlong
Arms

On back of letter -> Please excuse this bad penmanship because I had to sit in an awkward position. Your son Char. Mac.

S.G. Vincent Esq. Present
Minor's Hill, Nov 21. 1862

My most respected and beloved paternal ancestor. To come to the point at once and without crawling over or around the haystack, I am sadly in need of a little of that convenient article, styled "money" by some; "the root of evil" by others, the "needful," by still another class of humanity. I am entirely out of money, and a man might about as well be without friends as without money. Last Friday should have been our pay day, but it is very doubtful when we shall get any. We may get in the course of a few days, and it may be months. I guess you had better send as much as \$5, certainly, because I can get a chance to have some pictures taken, if I have some money. I should like for you to send it just as soon as possible, because I am entirely out. Just keep run of what you send me, and we will make it all right in the morning. You may say that I am getting extravagant, but it is no use to pinch a fellows gut, when there is no need of it. We get good grub, but a fellow soon gets sick of the best of fare, when it comes for a steady diet. Meat and hard bread will do very well for fifty or sixty meals, but when it comes for a steady diet, it is rather tough. I don't want you to think that that is all we have, for it is not so, but that is the principal part of our sustenance. We have rice, beans, potatoes, occasionally. Please grant me this, and I will endeavor to be a dutiful son.

Charlie Mac.

Minor's Hill Dec. 17th 1862

Dear Mother,

We still remain at the dreary old camp at Minor's Hill. I say dreary, because me have seen all all there is to be seen in this part o the country so many times that we have about all got tired of it. How long we shall remain in camp is always a matter of doubt, because the soldier is liable to have to start at any time, should his services be required for any emergency. I think that we are as likely to remain here as we can well possibly be.

For nearly or quite a week I believe I have not written you a word through some neglect or other which I hope you will or have not caused to be a source of uneasiness to any of the dear ones at home. I received father's letter all right last [SYMBOL] I believe I answered the same night. Saturday I got the Gazette and a letter from Cousin Siggie on Sunday and Monday a magazine (The Atlantic Monthly) from my much esteemed friend Allen S. Weeks. Sunday, Frank Pease had a letter from his wife, by which I gained the information that he and I were about having some goodly things from the fatherland of my forefathers, that's flat enough. I guess I won't attempt any more puns until my head gets a little better and cleared of the nonsense that has been it for the last month. This is all talk you know _____.

While I write I am informed that the subject of thought (viz. The box has arrived and am now going to gage on the contents. Goodbye, for a few minutes if I have the spare time.

Later- it is so late being almost nigh onto bed time, that I can say nothing more in this than that everything is all right as far as I can see, and I am very thankful for your generous contributions. I will return thanks in my next which will be very soon, to the various contributors. I send this to day, so that you had ought to get it by Tuesday's mail.

In haste this time
From yours as ever
A loving son
Charlie Mac.

Minor's Hill, Virginia
Dec. 23, 1862 Morning

Dear Mother and Father,

Unfortunately I do not seem gain strength very fast in this benighted country and I don't know as I ever shall be able to gain my strength in this hole. I have been off duty now for seven weeks and am no so well now as I was a fortnight ago. When I wrote you tat I was so much better, I was in earnest but I had a relapse. Taking all things into consideration, the boys thought that I had better send for some one of my friends to come out here, and see what can be done towards getting a chance to come home on a sick furlough for thirty or sixty days, if you could not get my discharge. If father cannot or does not feel able to come, I want you to get Uncle Richard to come because he is the best man for the business that I know of and I believe he has some little interest in my welfare. Tell him it is my desire for him to come if father can't and to come as soon as he can. Take money enough to get us both home. Tell him if he thinks of anything that he can do at home that would operate favorably to do it.

When you get in Washington he will want to get a pass from Provost Marshal in Washington to cross the lines into Virginia, make inquiries of the General Quartermaster of the whereabouts of the teams of the 40th Mass, and you can get a ride out in one of them, if not take some private conveyance. There will no trouble in findingme at the foot of Co. D, ST.

In great haste from your loving son,
Charlie Mac.

Don't be too much worried in regard to me. I think with proper management I can get home.

The mail will close right off, so I must stop writing.

P.S. Please send some postage stamps in your next letter and truly C.M.V.
Please give this note to David.

Read the sheets as they are numbered and they will come right

Page .

Minor's Hill, Virginia,
January 5, 1863

To the dear friends at home; collectively, and to father, mother, sister and brother especially:-

Some time has elapsed since I wrote to you, but I thought that Uncle Richard could tell you all the news for the present, and I would therefore resume my fire for a short time. I wrote to David Barney the same day that Uncle R.S.P. left here, his letter having been neglected some three or four weeks. Another reason for any delay was that I wanted to see if the prospects of my ultimate recovery from my protracted siege were likely to continue favorable. I am happy to state that I still continue to improve and am gaining strength quite fast. My appetite is good and a plenty of it and has been good for a week or more. I feel a great deal better than I did and continue to ^{improve} daily. We have had very good pleasant weather lately; a circumstance, which, no doubt, has contributed largely to my favor in getting up again. I hope soon to be able to state that I have climbed to my original standard of good health.

If I can only regain my health and strength once more, Vincent will be just as contented and happy as any man in the regiment, and will try to do his duty until this cursed rebellion is firmly put down, no more to raise its hydra-head in this beautiful land of ours, where once all was peaceful and serene, but now is being rocked to its very foundation by the unnatural and unholy war which is being waged between the different sections of the country. Talk about giving up to secession! Never. There has been too much precious blood spilt and valuable lives lost to have been in vain.

Although the prospect (way{crossed out}) does not look particularly bright just now, still I cannot conceive how this war can last a great many months more. I hope and trust that ere another winter shall have dropped his snowy and icy mantle over the earth. (peace may{crossed out}) the angel of peace with his smiling countenance beaming brightly upon us will proclaim a nation once more united in bonds of love and good will ^{and} that we shall be more firmly cemented than ever, never again to be disturbed by the hands of domestic foes, but that we shall come out of the fiery ordeal purified, (of{crossed out}) and brightened to a degree that will not show a single foul spot on its fair surface.

You were, I doubt not, somewhat disappointed when Uncle Richard arrived without me. But you were no doubt rejoiced to hear that I was improving so rapidly. It was of course, a disappointment to me also, but I had thought it a very doubtful matter myself as soon as I found out the great routine necessary to be gone through with in order to ac-(reach{crossed out})mplish the desired end, so I made up my mind not to let it worry me but keep my spirits up to the sticking point, with the determination to get better if the Lord should so will it. I am in good spirits now, and (feel{crossed out}) think if I only take good care of myself, I shall be able to do duty in the course of two or three weeks. I have given you a correct statement of my condition and feeling, and hope you will (not{crossed out}) feel

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encouraged by the prospect. I feel encouraged very much. (It is {crossed out})

Our company is out on picket to-day, they return again to-morrow forenoon. They have got a very pleasant time for picketing, the weather being almost ^{the same} as our Indian Summer at home. They do have some pleasant weather out in old Virginia occasionally you will perceive.

You would laugh to see us cooking sometimes. Dick Shute has got a fry-pan and a nice little tea-pot. We fry sausages, pancakes, and meat sometimes, and make tea that tastes really like home. Dick has given me a tea-cup and saucer, and we ^{can} get milk almost (any {crossed out}) every day at the low sum of 10 cents per quart, wine measure at that, so you see it is quite home like.

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I have just had some of that said tea for dinner and it went – as Uncle Warren once said in “Eddard” Norton’s barn, “The were hot a cup tea went right to the spot”.

Things at home are I suppose a little dear, but still I think if you could send out a few things of the “delicacy” kind (time {crossed out}) they would not come amiss. If you could get some quince preserves that were so good as those you sent as first, I should really like to have a few. I don’t like to say anything, but those that Aunt Mary sent tasted kind of curious, they were burnt a little, I think. I will name a few things that I think would go well:- viz.:- Firstly, a small loaf of brown bread, Indian cake or Indian pudding would go about as well as anything I can think of now. You can send anything in the cake line that you are a mind to. One loaf of cake of a light nature, some cookies, etc... And if possible, a small spare rib will go tip-top. Some of the

Page 7th. Chap. 3.

Blank Verse or Prose _____

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boys have had some and it was first rate. We get plenty of beef, both fresh and salt, but no fresh pork. If you can get a piece without too much trouble, please do so and I will be under everlasting obligations to you. If you can’t get one handy, a small chicken with plenty of stuffing would be nice and perhaps not so expensive. If neither of these are convenient if the old hog’s hams are out of pickle send us a few slices of that. We can fry it like a book(?). Dick had some in his box and it tasted really good. He fried it in

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his fry pan. If you should send any pies, don’t send more than two or three, because they do not keep as well as cakes or something of that kind.

When Uncle R.L.P. was here I supposed he had money belonging to the firm, so I thought I would get some of him and that would save the trouble and risk of sending it by mail. I asked him for \$5 but he thought I had better take \$10. So I did. I thought it was best to have enough to last till pay-day if that event should ever happen. The prospect now is that we shall receive at least a portion of our pay by the twentieth of this month. If so, I shall send some portion of it home. I hope to make the acquaintance of some “green-backs”. They would look nice.

I want you to return my sincere thanks to the kind friends who so generously contributed to the filling of my box with eatables, and assure them, that, although I have apparently neglected them by ^{not} returning thanks before, rest assured that they are not by any means forgotten, but are all held in kindly remembrance by me. Please tell Lavinia Slover that she is not forgotten and return my thanks to her. Tell her that I will write to her soon in answer to her favor.

Have you any herring round that way yet? I want you to send some of the first spring run. Tell Fred to keep a sharp look out and not let Tom Norton get ahead of him this year. I am going to write to the little "bugger" soon.

I see by the Gazette which I got last night that Frank had seen some rather tough marching, but they stood it bravely, I think. Poor boys! James Smith when he enlisted reckoned the nine months' men would ^{not} see any fighting, and hardly thought they would go out of the state of Massachusetts. Wonder what he thinks now? I was also rather sorry to see a piece which I thought to be somewhat personal in its relation to me. Please tell Mrs. M, that Vincent is worth a dozen dead men a ready a mask and perhaps he will notice it. _____ Give my best regards, love, respects, etc. etc, to any friends I may have left in that lovely "isle of the sea. Tell Uncle Richard that his visit did me almost as much good as a furlough, and I will write soon and let him know how we get along. Lastly dear mother, father, sister, brother, niece, I send my love, the real genuine, with the hope that you will accept the offering with this letter. I must answer Gracie's letter soon.

With lots of love, more love if wanted, I subscribe myself the same old sixpence.

Charlie Mac. Vincent

Minor's Hill Virginia
January 7th, 1863

Dear Sister:- I have just received your welcome letter of the 4th inst and thought I would answer it right away, having nothing particular to do this evening. I did not expect to hear from you quite so soon, because I thought that Uncle Richard had had scarcely time enough to get home, and to hear from him yet. So your letter was kind of an agreeable surprise. All the more welcome for that however. I had one from David Barney also, so you see that I had quite a treat _____. My health continues to improve as rapidly as can reasonably be expected. My appetite is good and if I could have a few home delicacies to taste of occasionally, I think it wouldn't be "bad to take". For a poor boy, I wrote the other day for a few things if convenient and am of the same opinion now. If you send any preserves you had better put them in some tin vessel that will shut tight. I don't need anything in the clothing line but a pair of good drawers. Those that I brought from home are about "done gone for," and those we draw from government, are nothing but cotton flannel, and they are thinner than I wore last fall. Get a good stout pair. You can make them of flannel or get a pair of knit ones, just as you are a mind to act your own pleasure, ma'am, it makes no material adds to me, madam". Ellen if you are so disposed, I want you to make me a loaf of that plain cake, that used to taste so good at home. And if the old hog is dead, you can use any spare dough you may be frying a few "double breasted" doughnuts. That will be about enough to ask for at one time.

The Weather today is clear and quite cool, but windy. We manage to get along very comfortably with the aid of our famous "stove". I have got so that I sleep a great deal more comfort than I did a while ago. I don't have to turn out in the night now, as "I used to did".

Dick Shute will undoubtedly get his discharge and come home soon. They are making or have made out his papers today, and as soon as they are signed by the proper authorities he will be after leaving us.

He will probably be at home in the course of two or three weeks. It is too bad that he is in the predicament that he is, but I think if he gets hom he may get over it. He is young, and that is favorable for his ultimate recovery. I hope he will get better. He has been a good friend to me since I have been sick. One of my tent mates, a man by the name of Wellman, from Salem, has also done a good deal for me and is as kind as any man could be. They will always be held in kindly remembrance.

Please tell Mrs. Pease that Frank is in good health and can eat as much as a horse.

But I am of the opinion that all things being duly considered, I had better draw this chapter to a close for this time, and will continue the correspondence at an early date. Give my thanks to Uncle Richard, and tell him that although he was not successful in his mission, please assure him that his visit did me good. – Yea, more good than 18 ounces of doctor's stuff. Love to all the friends, and to yourself, father, mother, brother, and niece especially.

From your loving brother, Charlie Mac.

N.B. I have not heard anything from Frank yet by the way of letter from him. Hope to soon, Charlie.

Minor's Hill, Virginia
January 13, 1863

Dear Mother:-

I have not written to you for several days, for the reason that I have not felt exactly in the writing humor. Some days I don't feel like writing or doing much of anything else that requires brain-work. I have been sick so long that my head gets kind of "fuddled" sometimes; but thanks to a kind Providence. I entertain strong hopes of getting well in the due course of time. It will necessarily be some time before I shall fully regain my strength and former good health. I shall endeavor to take the best possible care of myself. The main trouble is in that it is hard to get a regular diet. A man has to take the best that he can get for a delicate appetite, and those things cannot be got without money and hardly for that in this country.

My appetite still continues to be good, and that is encouraging you know. My bowels have been a little out of order again for the last three or four days but feel better today. I am in hopes they will get regulated again to their former Massachusetts condition before fast day to say the least. I am strongly inclined to believe that they will if nothing happens.

Today is quite pleasant and things wear a better aspect than they do in a rain or show storm. We have had but very little wet weather so far this winter and I hope it will still continue to be so. The boys are out on battalion drill this afternoon and I thought I would come over to the other boys tent and keep company with Bunker, who has been a little unwell for a few days.

The trouble with him is a cold in the head which has made him deaf for a while. He is all right other ways. I guess he will soon get over it, because he was subject to such spells when he was at home. Ripley has been to work, carpentering for about a week. Capt. Danforth has had a house built for winter quarters and it is a real nice one. Alonzo has been to work on that. Ben Smith and the rest of the boys are hearty and strong and growing fat. Dick Shute will probably leave for home in the course of a week or two, and perhaps it may be only a few days. He can tell you how I am getting along when he arrives. We do not have much excitement in camp now consequently there is not much of interest to write in that line.

Please to tell Alice and Mary Jane that I have not forgotten them and will certainly answer their long neglected letters as soon as I feel a little better. Tell them they have fared as well as the most of my correspondents, and therefore should not complain. I owe an apology also to Cousin Fannie Allen, please make one.

Give my love to all inquiring friends and tell them I should be happy at any time to see them at my residence No. 20 Lafayette St., Co. D's quarters, Minor's Hill.

I shall endeavor to write again very soon and let you know how I am progressing. Hoping that you are all well and as comfortable as could be expected. I remain.

Your loving son,
Chas. Mac. V.

PS Let me know about
The box if you should
Send one C.M.V.

January 18th, 1863
Minor's Hill, Virginia

Dear Father:-

Some time has elapsed since I have written directly to you, but let me assure you that I had not forgotten you, nor your many kindnesses to your unworthy son Charlie. I have written to the rest of the folks all the particulars of how I am getting along. I am picking up finely, and have continued to for the last three or four weeks. I have got a good appetite and I feel much better than I did. I think that the prospect is good for my soon being as well as ever. You know how it is sometimes with men that have been sick a long time! When they do begin to get over it, they are better than they have ever been. If I can only get my health and strength and feel smart, I shall be just as contented to stay out of here, as anybody, even if we have to stay the rest of our three years and to tell you the plain truth I don't expect to get home much sooner, judging from the looks of things now. The rebel have got the best of us almost everywhere, now. Once in a great while we gain a little advantage over them, but they seem to hold their own, for all that. How soon the tide will turn, I can't say, but one thing is pretty certain. That unless we do something soon, the Old Harry will be to pay in the North. We much hope for the best, and perhaps we shall come out all right before a great while. I want to see the end of this cursed war so that when I do come home I can live once more in a land of peace, and have everything lovely.

I have not heard a word from home by way of letter for over a week. What is the matter?

I have no doubt that you have written, but I have not had any letter. Am in hopes too soon. You cannot write too often to a poor fellow, I can tell you, and I hope that some of you will try to do so as often as you can, and I will try to return the favors.

Richard Shute will probably start for home tomorrow. He has got his "discharge papers," and there is nothing to hinder him going anytime. He will be up to see you, and he can tell you something of camp life. His experience is limited in regard to many things, such as "picket" and "guard" duty, or night marches, but he can give you a little information.

Sunday Evening, Jan 18.

I have just got a letter from Alice and Uncle Richard, and was very glad to hear from home once more. I was glad to hear that my box was soon to start because I am in good trim for what I suppose to be in there. Hope it will get here in good shape, and I shall let you know as soon as I get it.

Please tell the friends at home that I send my best respects. Dick Shute wants some of you to tell his father that he will start tomorrow for home. Please send Freddie down to the store and let him know.

It is getting late and I must close for this time. Love to all the friends, and especially to my dear parents, sister, brother and NIECE.

From your Loving Son,
Charlie Mac Vincent

Hilton Head S.C.
January 19th 1863

For the House of Gifford,

Dear friends and ?, you will perceive by the heading of this epistle that I have again changed my location. Since the date of my last note the 40th Mass. Vols. Have experienced a great change in our circumstances, a change too that was totally unexpected by the most of us, and was as much of a surprise to us as it will be to you when you read this.

Friday afternoon (15th inst.) we received orders from the proper authorities to prepare for a move with four days rations. We had heard rumors of a change but did not credit them. When we got the order to prepare rations we began to think that there was "something in the wind". About eleven o'clock Saturday forenoon we broke camp and started for Stone Inlet there to take transport for Hilton Head. -On our way down we drew up in line in front of Gen. Gordons (our Division Commander) presented arms and then "closed column by Division," and he made a very feeling speech expressed his sincere regret at our departure from his command. Said we were an honor to Massachusetts and he could give us no higher meed of praise than those words, and as we were about to be transferred to a post of honor by the express order of Gen. Gillmore he could not retain us. We then went to the landing, embarked aboard the steamer but did not get away from Folly Isle. Until Sunday noon and after a rough passage in which nearly all the Regiment were sea-sick, myself among the number. We arrived at Hilton Head early that same evening-Remained on board until yesterday it raining hard all the forenoon and went into camp about a mile from the Head.

Well I have not yet told you what the matter is. It is nothing more nor less than what I am about to tell you! The 40th Mass. Vols. Infantry is to be but a short time longer, but will undoubtedly soon be called the "Sixth Mass. Cavalry. What do you think of that? Hey! We are to take some of the horses tomorrow.

Wednesday Jany 20th

Had not time to finish last night. Today we have been as busy as bees in honey time, details have been the rage all day for all sorts of work. Our company had twenty horses turned over for them today to take care of. Everything is on the move. I have not found time to write today until now nearly time for tatto. The mail will probably leave for the North tomorrow and I thought I would send this, if I could not say much. -You understand my condition. Will enter into details the first opportunity, and endeavor to keep you well posted in regard to our movements in this new branch of U.S. Service.

We expect to tern over our guns in the course of the week. Have just drawn the Cavalry equipments for the Company, but they will not probably be delivered before morning, if then. I have no horse to take care of yet and am not particularly anxious to have one until my turn. The boys as a general thing seem to like the idea pretty well. It will be hard work of course at first, because we shall be raw recruits once more. On the whole I think I shall like the change. Certainly shall, if we should ever have to return to Virginia again.

My brother, if you have any idea of enlisting again, now is your time, to join the 40th or what will probably not be the 40th Mass. Long. You can get a good chance, either in the Band or as a Bugler, either would suit you pretty well I think. The Band are to be mounted.-

What do you say? You can join any Reg't you choose, you know. I should like to have you. We have got a pleasant camp and as bully boys in Co. D. as there is in the Reg't. and the Reg't has as good men as there are in the service. "An honor to old Massachusetts," so says Gen. Gordon, and he ought to know, had he not?

The first opportunity I get shall tell you all about it.-We were selected for this service in preference to any Reg't in the Department of the South. Quite a feather in our caps.

Our Colonel is a bully boy. Has some interest in the welfare of his men, such as no commanding officer of the 40th ever had. He is a regular army officer, and if a man wants proper care taken of him, get in an organization with one at its head. He knows what the men are entitled to and they get it if it can be procured. Bully for Col. Henry! Say.I. _____

One thing is certain will be a change from infantry, and if it is not as agreeable, you know variety is the spice of life, "salt horse and hard tack" always included.

Give my best respects to all the friends in my native place. Love to all my kinsmen and kinswomen. Particularly the latter. If any of my correspondents are disposed to find fault at my delay in answering them, please inform them that they are not forgotten but will receive attention as soon as possible. We have not got fairly settled down yet in our new camp, and everything is in a "hubbub". -Again renewing my protestations of love, and undiminished fealty to the place of my earlier career. I sign my name as brother, to the rest of my parents children and their (long life to them) son Charlie Mac.

Direct as usual
Only change Port Royal
To Hilton Head, S.C.

Camp of the Mass 40th
At Minor's Hill, Jan. 23^d/63

Dear Parents:

I received yours of the 18th night before last, and it was with no small degree of pleasure that I perused its contents, containing as it did, such words of cheer and comfort, and likewise the assurances of other friends in the shape of gifts to their absent friend, that I was not forgotten. The box itself has not yet arrived, so that I have not had an opportunity to test the "quality" of their friendship manifested in their contributions. The box will be here to-day or to-morrow without doubt. You see they are brought generally but twice a week from Washington; usually Tuesdays + Fridays. They brought up a lot Tuesday, but they did not wait for mine. As soon as I get it, I will commence to acknowledge the favors by "detail", a military term, you understand.

Once on a time, there was a certain young fellow that worked in a printing office who was remarkably fond of fish and potatoes, especially when he was going to "run the press". Now this story I have no doubt is true, as it was told to me by a fellow that seemed to be in earnest. I can't solemnly swear that it was so; [so {crossed out}] therefore, in order to prevent any misapprehension of the affair, I will tell the story "verbatim ad literatum", or as nearly so as possible, and leave you to draw your own inference as to the probability of its truthfulness:- Well to proceed with the story.- It has been a matter of dispute for some time, as to the best method of prefacing a story. Many people say-"once on a time", others "once upon a time", but I think for the sake of euphony, and you see also, that by saying "once on upon a time", we incorporate both forms in one, and therefore leave no room for dispute between the parties. With your consent, dear readers, we will proceed to proceed with the proposed proposal. viz:- namely, the story. _____ 'Once^{on} upon a time" when I was engaged in the same or aforementioned office, (by the way, that was before I came to fight for the glorious "Stars & Stripes" that have floated so long in triumph from the peak end of Washqua Bluffs to the remote and curious regions of "Gay "Hade",) with another fellow by the name of Edgar, we happened, (it was all by chance, you see. Strange what turns conversation will take sometimes, ain't it?) to speak of the fellow, whom we will call Coombs, and there upon he (that is, Edgar,) told me, that Coombs told him, (I got it second-[cross-out] handed, you see,) that when he was going to "run the press", by the way, we don't generally run the press only on Thursdays and Saturdays, unless we have some job work, which is rarely seldom; so I would advise any one having a printer in the family to cook up enough of the article in question to on Thursday, to hash up for Saturday. I say this is a matter of economy, not that I should have any particular preference, or wish to be regarded as dictating any particular method, but I speak for the benefit of the public, generally who have lived in ignorance of this great truth,)_ he always wanted a good mess of fish and potatoes". This is what Edgar told me that Coombs told him, as near as I can recollect it. Pretty good foundation for the belief that it was true, because I never knew Edgar to tell a lie, in any such affair as this, where truth was an essential element.

Page 5.

I am gaining strength and flesh gradually as I have for the past three or four weeks. It is slower work here than it would be at home, but still I think that I shall be all right before many weeks. My appetite still holds good and I eat nearly as much as [any {crossed out}] usual, though it has to be rather a light sort of food. I eat some meat, bread and butter, bread and milk cookies & sometimes a piece of pie, when I can find any good ones. Some of the old farmers round here bring in some that are very good, sometimes, and they taste quite homelike. I am in hopes that when I get the box I shall be revived by the things direct from my much loved home and friends. I shall endeavor to make a proper use of them, and not eat too much at a time of anything that would be at all likely to be prejudicial to my health.

For the last two or three days we have had rainy, nasty weather, and the mud is nearly ankle deep round in camp. This afternoon, however, it has cleared off and it is real warm and pleasant for this time of the year. I am in hopes that it will continue to hold pleasant for as long a time as it can, conveniently. It is rather dull music sitting in the tents in a rain storm, but we manage to kill time after a fashion.

I was very glad to hear that herring had come + should have much liked to had one, but I suppose it would have stunk up everything else in the box and that would have been rather more herring than I should have wanted in one contribution of the staff of life.

That journal of which you spoke in your letter shall be forthcoming soon. I have got a little back writing to do in it and then it will be full. I neglected it when I was sick, but shall fill it to the best of my ability and forward soon. My socks are in good order, and the two pair of stockings I have not yet worn at all. I am well supplied on that footing. It is about time for supper so I guess I will wait till evening before I conclude the epistle. ^{C.M.V.}

Evening 7 ½ o'clock_

Nothing new has transpired during the interim, from ½ past four to half past 7. The boxes did not come to-night, for the reason that the roads are so muddy. They will bring them to-morrow, without doubt. I must close for this time, rather hastily, as you will see. Love to you all in abundance. Will write again on Sunday, if nothing happens to prevent. Am in hopes to [find {crossed out}] chronicle the safe arrival of The "B O X". Keep up good spirits about my health. Good evening.

From your loving son
Charlie Mac

Write as often as you can by so doing you will greatly oblige your own son.

Mackie.

{ this is the end of the letter but written on top of the 1st page }

Darling little Gracie, I wish I could see her and kiss her. You must do it for me, as she is most too far off for me to reach. Good night for this time and hope for more soon
Your son Charlie Mac

Minor's Hill, Jan 25, 1863

Dear Mother

The box arrived last night, and upon opening it. I found the things in good condition, and was very much pleased with the contents. It was the best box, or rather the best assortment that I have had, I think. The loaf of cake etc. from Mrs. Shute are very acceptable, and I desire you to return my hearty thanks for the donation.- That "air" brown bread from Aunt Sydia tastes as much like home as anything I have tasted since I left Edgartown. Mr. Wellman and I have just had some for dinner, and he pronounced it first rate. Remember me kindly to Aunt Sydia and the rest of the family, and (^ so) trust that I do duly appreciate the kindness manifested by this, as well as other favors and gifts. Please tell Fannie that I shall endeavor to write to her soon. Mr. Dillingham I think was very kind to send that bottle of medicine. I have tried it once or twice and I think it may have helped me. Please thank him for me. To Ms. Barney and the rest of the family who so generously contributed to the contents of my "Box" I wish you to assure them of my appreciation of their kindness and return my sincere thanks I think if "all" that Charlie Mayhew was very kind to do as he did about that can, Remember me to him most respectfully. To Aunts Mary V. and Mary West "Cousin" Sarah May Pease and Uncle Silvanus, I wish you to likewise tender my humble thanks for their kind donations. And to little "Frankie" Howard I must certainly say something. Tell him that I think he is very kind to remember Charlie Mac while he is so far away from home, and if he keeps on writing he will make a teacher of penmanship soon. I am surprised to see that he can write so well, and should never have thought that he wrote it unless you had previously informed me of it. My regards to all the family of Alexander and especially to Savinia. Those gloves have been very hardy at times this winter. The drawers I have not tried on but I am much pleased with them. I guess they will fit well enough. My vest suited me tip top. It has left me warm and comfortable and I hope will wear well say at least till the war is ended, which time I hope is not far distant, though I must say that the prospect is not very bright on encouraging for a speedy termination. My pillow, I consider worth a dollar at the least calculation. I wouldn't that for it anyhow. It makes considerable difference to my red head when I come to lay it down to rest. My comforter has come very handy some of these cold days.

Today it is warm and pleasant in fact it is warm enough almost without a fire in the tent

Last Thursday was an eventful day in camp caused by the arrival in our Regiment of the paymaster with a lot of "green backs." We only get two months pay however, but am in hopes to get some more soon. I shall send some home in the course of a week or two. I want to wait till the rush is over a little because the mail will not be so likely to be robbed by-and-by I think. The boys from our town viz. Benj. Smith, Alonzo Ripley, Bunker and Ellis, and myself have paid about six dollars each to defray the expenses attending the death and sending home of poor Harrington. The rest of the expenses were made up by the officers and the men of the company. _____ Frank Pease my a

amiable tentmate did _____ for once and gave three dollars which I thought was pretty fair for Mr. Pease

You spoke about wanting my picture. I am going to have one taken as soon as I gain a little more fat. You can judge that I am still rather "frin", when I tell you what I weighed yesterday. I weighed 121 ½ lbs. When I was at Ethan Allen, my weight was about 145 lbs. I have gained between 15 and 20 lbs. within a month. When Uncle Richard was here, I don't I weighed but little over a hundred. I feel encouraged that all will yet be well with one, and that day is not far distant when I shall be able to do my duty once more.

Please inform Uncle Richard that I delivered agreeably to the wish expressed in his note, the box of cakes sent by Aunt Mary West, to Lieut Rose. He saw me afterwards and wished me to send his best respects to Mr. & Mrs. Pease and said that he and Capt. Danforth ate three or four, and they then and there decided that they were very nice. The rest of them he carried to the persons for whom they were designed. The pin balls shared the same melancholy fate with the bare exceptions perhaps, that they ~~did~~^{were} not so palatable as the cakes. Mr Wellman also sends his regards to his friends in Edgartown and seemed to be much pleased with the tokens of regard that he received. I have not written to Frank yet, but I will do so very soon. I suspect he has thought strange of me, but I have not felt but little like writing to anyone. It has not been because I have not wanted to.

My dear mother I want you to accept again the ~~man~~ assurances of my love for you. I should indeed (^ be) an ungrateful wretch were I to forget the care with which you have watched over me in my younger days and I am happy to state is still manifested though far away from home.

Give my love to father also in the fullest sense of the word, Love to all the friends at home

Camp of the 40th Mass. Vols.
Minor's Hill, Jan Va.
Feb 2, 1863

Dear Mother:--I received your very welcome letter last night, and was glad to hear from home once more. It was the first letter I have had for over a week, and I almost began to think that you had forgotten me. I want some of you to try and write, as often as you can, for a letter from home and friends is highly prized by me. I shall endeavor to write as often as I can and I want you to do the same even if there is not anything of particular interest transpiring there. I know that it is not so easy for either of you or father to write as it is not so easy for many, but still I am always anxious to hear from you. Tell Ellen that I am very sorry to hear that she has been sick, but was also rejoiced to know that she is rapidly convalescing. I should really like to see the "household darling" Gracie. She must be a great blessing and comfort to you all. Tell her Uncle Charlie wants to see her and kiss her. I expect from what you write, that she is kind of a rara avis. How does father get along with the fishing business this winter? Has he had good luck at the Great Pond? Herring have hardly got along yet ⁱⁿ very large quantities, I presume. Herring are generally admitted by a large portion of human race to be the staff of life, and consequently should be highly prized by them. I hope they will appear in large numbers to gladden the eyes of the suffering humanity who are in a measure dependent upon these valuable fish for means of support. Give my love to love to them when they arrive with the complaint that I cannot always be with them. I hope before many springs have passed that I shall be with you to enjoy the sport of the herring catching.

Nothing of any material interest has occurred in camp since I last wrote to you, with the exception that I have to chronicle the fall of a considerable quantity of snow last week. It fell to the depth of about a foot and a half, I should think. It does last long, however, for it is nearly all gone now. Last night we had a rain that caused the snow to disappear without much ceremony. To-day we have it clear and windy, and a little cool with all. Our Company is out on picket duty, and will return to camp again to-morrow. The boys are in good health with the exception of some with slight colds, nothing serious, however. I am feeling quite bright to-day. The contents of my box, I have enjoyed muchly. I am afraid I was a little too ravenous with my fresh pork and it made me a little too loose for a day or two; but I took some medicine that checked it before it did any material damage, and now my bowels are in as good order as they have been for a long time. I have a regular diet now, consisting of toasted bread and butter with some cake or cookies occasionally.

In regard to Dick Shute. I meant to have written to you that you must make some allowance for the stories he tells. Not that I mean to accuse him of lying, but for the reason that he is apt to tell some pretty big stories especially where he is concerned. He knows but very little about the realities of a soldier's life, as his occupation of drumming gave him but a slight idea of the life as a regular soldier. I think he was very unwise to tell such stories about Frank Pease, even if they were all true, there was no necessity of his telling them at home. For my part I should have let all such things drop, and not reported them where his folks would have got hold of it. We will not gain much credit for it, I guess, certainly not amongst the boys out here. I will tell you the story relating to the expenses of poor Harrington's remains being sent home. The

expenses for sending him home amounted to be about sixty dollars. The captain borrowed the money for the purpose at the time, and we told him that we would see it made up to him at our next pay-day. We thought likely the Company would do something towards ~~it~~ making it up to us, but if they had not, we should have paid the whole ourselves, sooner than that the Captain should have had any trouble about it. For sending ~~the~~ his things home and also a telegraphic despatch it amounted to 67 cents a piece. This, we ~~all~~ paid at the time of sending, with the exception of Mr. R. G. Shute & F. Pease. Dick was going to pay, but he has not done it yet. The day before he went home the boys asked him about the pay, and he said he had not the money, but would send it out to us. It has not arrived yet. Frank at this time did not pay anything to be sure, but the other day when we came to pay the rest he gave \$3, which I think was very fair, considering that he did not receive but half as much pay as we did. You see he got a month's pay in advance, at Boxfords which the rest of us did not get. After paying his fill at the sutler's he had \$10 left. He paid \$3 for Harrington, so you see had but a little over \$7 left out of his pay. Instead of all the boys paying the ~~re~~ but one, the matter now stands in the light. Frank Pease has given \$3 and paid the cash, and Mr. Shute has not paid a single cent as of yet. I think he had better keep still on that scare, don't you? These are the facts of the case and you make such use of them as you are a mind to. Dick and Frank, always were at "loggerheads" while they were in the tent. Frank and I have got along a great deal better since he left, although I will say he is a hard fellow to get along with sometimes. He has got a selfish disposition, naturally, and that makes it bad for him, especially in the army. I can get along with him very well now, without much tro^uble.

I shall write to Frank either to-day or to-morrow, and hope to hear from him soon. I have neglected to write for a long time, for the reason that I was rather uncertain where to send, they have been on the move so much. I was much pleased with his message to me, and trust that I reciprocate the feeling of love towards him.

I hope he will return safely, & then I want to come too. I am in hopes to be there before my twentieth birth-day arrives. I have hope that it may be so. If so, we shall indeed be quite a happy meeting, I anticipate. With any amount of love to you, father, mother, sister, niece, & friends, I will close for this time. Write as soon and as often as you can.

Love to Uncle Richard.
I remain your loving son,
Charlie Mac.

Camp of the 40th Reg. Mass. Vols.
Minor's Hill, Feby 7, 1863

My dearly beloved Sis:-

Your very welcome letter of the 1st inst. was received day before yesterday, and after mature consideration I came to the conclusion that I might as well answer it, if I ever expected to hear from you again. You know it is not every one that will do as much as this for their country. But, believing you to be a modest and sensible woman, and being possessed of a large share of that not too abundant gift called discretion, a fact owing in a great measure to the oft repeated warnings of "Now, don't," and "Mind what you say and do," of our mutually loved and highly esteemed maternal (ances{crossed out}) parent, I thought that you would be able to exercise enough of your abilities to understand and properly digest the sound logic that might, (accidentally, of course,) be found in this as well as other literary efforts of a massive mind like your brothers. Having thus somewhat ambiguously introduced myself, or rather my purpose, nothing now remains for me to do, but to proceed to execute my intended design, or in other words "prepare to pucker". Should I, either by accident or design, fail, in your estimation, to interest you, as you may have been led to expect, from the lofty style of expression (used{crossed out}) employed in the "opening" "valedictory", you will (have {crossed out}) consequently not be so agreeably entertained as you would have been had I been more interesting. This statement, I think you will admit to be self-evident, and no doubt become at once convinced of the powers of mind necessary to advance such sound logic, and be at once proud to call the author thereof your brother.

How does father get along. I thought of him all day Thursday, the 60th anniversary of his birth. Sixty years old! He is getting to be quite an old gentleman, but I hope to be quite an old gentleman, but I hope he will yet live many years to gladden our home. One thing I want you tell him from me, and that is this-he shall never suffer as long as I am able to do anything to help him. He has been a good "daddy" to me and I have had a better opportunity to judge of the kindness and parental care that " has been my lot to have, by having been for the past few months deprived of the comforts of our dear old home. Give my love to him and thank him for his care and solicitude for me, from my earliest childhood to the present time.

I am improving in health and feel a perceptible change for the better, even during the last few days. I am still taking ^{the} medicine that has I think been the means of my regaining my somewhat dilapidated state of health. I tell you what it is, if the rebels can stand a siege as long as my bowels have stood it, and maintain themselves, I think that It will be hard work to subdue them. They begin to feel a little as they used to when I was well. Hope they will soon be restored to a good "war footing". (The{crossed out})

The weather is pleasant to-day, overhead, but bad enough underfoot. To give you a faint idea of the style, you can take a tramp on the Holmes' Hole road, or the middle of Main Street, when it is the muddiest in winter. The whole country around here is about like that and in the roads it is almost impossible for a team to get along with half a load. We had a snow storm day before yesterday, and ten a rain yesterday, so you can form some idea that it would be likely to be quite damp. We get along very comfortably, however, by keeping in the tent the most of the time when it is so wet. But the wet season will soon be over, I am in hopes.

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Enclosed you will find a Ten Dollar Treasury Note, which you will please give to father and ask him to give me credit (there {crossed out}) for. I should have sent more, I might perhaps find it very handy on a long march, should our rations get low. It is best to look out for a stormy day in this country, for a soldier is liable to go anywhere at any time, you know. If the paymaster visits us again soon, I shall make a larger remittance next time. But we may not get any more money for two or three months, and perhaps even longer than that. Hope so, though. Government now owes us for over three months service, (very serviceable, I have been for the last three months. About all the service I have done is to rid "Uncle Sam" of his hospital drugs and bitters.) Well, it is the fault of his agents, if they were fools enough not not (sic.) to let me go where I should have been less expense to him, why he must foot the bills with as good a face as possible. I suppose he knows his business best, however, so that I will "dry up on that score. ----The boys are about as usual and in good spirits, and send their respects to the family. I have written to Frank and sent that note from Ben Weeks. I was very glad to hear from him, because I had heard nothing for several months. Ben has seen some hard times; harder than I care about passing though. I think Allen is very kind to interest himself so much in my welfare, and whether his efforts are successful or not, rest assured that I am very grateful for them and shall always remember him with grateful feelings. But I guess I will close for this time. Love to all the dear friends at home, with a good portion for yourself and darling little Gracie. I should really like to see her, the little rosebud. More before shortly. Yours, as ever, a loving brother, Charlie.

I want you to answer this soon. Your loving Brother, "Charlie".

Camp of the 40th Reg. Mass. Vols.
At Minor's Hill, Virginia
February 11th, 1863

Dear Brother Freddie:-

I promised to write to you (for{crossed out}) a long time ago and accordingly I have taken this opportunity to fulfill my promise. I would have written to you before but there has been no news of any importance to write ^{about} in this part of the world. Freddie, I tell you what it is. I have had a pretty tough time of it this winter, but am getting a good deal better now. I am gaining my health and strength quite fast and am in hope to be well before many weeks more shall have passed by. ___ The weather to-day is rather cool with snow-spits occasionally. I am in hopes that it will clear off soon, because I feel better in pleasant weather. One thing I have missed this winter and that is the fun of going a skating. I suppose you have had tall fun skating this winter. Have you fell through the ice this winter? How does (The{crossed out}) Sarah Joy and Jennie get along with the fun? They were big skates last winter, and I hope they have improved a good deal the present season. Tell them to be careful and not fall down and breaks their necks, over an ash heap.

Our Regiment, as well as the whole Brigade have got orders to march to-morrow. We are going to Arlington Heights, close by Alexandria. If we only have good comfortable quarters there, I shall like the change first rate. We shall be close by the Potomac River and only about two miles from Washington. We shall have a good change to see any quantity of vessels & steamers so that it will seem considerable like home to see a vessel once in a while. Where we are now you can't see anything of that kind. I have not seen a vessel for about five months, and the sight of one once more will do a fellow good. I want to get where there is something and somebody stirring. On the whole, I think from the description I have heard of the place it will be ^a much pleasanter place than where we are now. Tell father I shall write as soon as I can after we get there, and let him know how we like it. There is (only{crossed out}) one thing that is good, we shall not have to do "picket duty," and that will suit the boys very well. The boys like the proposed move very well. We shall be in Gen. Heintzleman's Corps for the defence of Washington. The number of the Corps is the Twenty Second, and has just been formed or designated as such. Direct the letters the same as before, with the exception of leaving off Minor's Hill.

There is nothing of any account to write that will interest you. How is Uriah Fisher now & has he got any better and how is "Fede" and "Ben Snickers?" I wonder if Bennie looks as much alike as he used to. Have the herring come yet? They will soon get along, and you must be on hand to give 'em fits this season. They will probably not get many at Matakeesett Creek, so that the folks will have to depend upon Little "Trapps" Creek, this year. You must drive 'em like fury. But I guess I must close for this time. Give my love to father, mother, sister & little Gracie. I suppose you set your eyes by her, don't you? I should like to see the little darling. Give my best respects to Mary Jane and Sarah Joy, and all the rest of my friends. From your brother Charlie Mac

Camp of the 40th Reg. Mass. Vols.
Hunter's Chapel, Va.
February 17th, 1863

My dear Mother:-

Your welcome letter of the 8th & 9th instants arrived in our new camp last Friday and greeted my arrival in camp. I was very glad to hear from you as you will readily believe. Glad to hear that you were getting along so comfortably. Hope your headache is better by this time. I was glad to hear that Frank was well, and would inform you that I received a letter from him, dated Feb'y 5th, the same day that I wrote to him. Quite singular, wasn't it, that we should both write the same day, and that day the birthday of our father. I shall answer his letter as soon as I hear from home again, in order to give him the benefit of the latest news. He wrote in the best of spirits and said that he was having easy times. He is a lucky boy, I think, to be so fortunate as to obtain the position he occupies. IP is about as easy a berth as there is in the Regiment. His star is in the ascendant and mine has seemed to be on the decline. However I have not and do not yet despair of success. Vincent is bound to turn right side up, with care, if there is any such thing. Better late than never. Hope soon to be able to take my turn at the helm again. My health is much better, and I can perceive a radical change for the better, within the past fortnight. The doctor asked me yesterday, "How long I thought it would be, in my opinion, judging from the way I have gained lately, before I should feel well enough to go on duty". I told him, I thought in the course of a week or two. I have begun to do what we term "Light Duty," which means light work about the camp, and have got so that I can walk quite well now. Yesterday, being a pleasant day, Mr. Wellman and I went off on a tramp to see the sights. We travelled about three miles, which is the longest distance that I have walked for nearly four months. We went over to Fort Craig, one of the forts for the defence of Washinton, where he has a brother. He showed us round and we went in and viewed the fort. It is a good solid looking fort, and mounts 12 guns. Some of them are 32 lb. Parrott guns, some 24-pounders. There was also two mortars, which look something like (a{crossed out}) small "try-props". Everything looked as neat as a pin, and it was really quite a treat to me to see it.

Our present place of encampment, as you will see by the heading of this letter, is called Hunter's Chapel, and is situated on a piece of level ground near the Leesburg Turnpike. We are about one and a half miles from the Potomac, and (about{crossed out}) between two and three miles from Washington. The dome of the Capitol and the Washington Monument are plainly in sight from our camp. It would be a very pleasant place for an encampment, if it was not so plaguey muddy. There is once in a while a house to be seen, and that is considerable to say for Virginia. Within a little ways, though there is quite a settlement. We are only about two miles from Alexandria. If we only had ^{as} good quarters as we had at Minor's Hill, I should like the situation much better. We have a chance to see something occasionally, here, as there is considerable passing on the Turnpike. I don't know how long we shall stop here but probably not a great while. There is a rumor that we shall move within a day or two for Long Bridge to guard the Bridge. If we do we shall be right in town. I don't think we shall have to go to the front right away, though of course everything is uncertain with the movements of the army. There is also another report to the effect that Col. Burr Porter, our colonel, has resigned. We all firmly

hope that it is so. He and Gen. Cowdin never have agreed very well. Porter has been fairly bewitched

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all winter to get off to the front, where he was in hopes to get into a fight so that he could kill off a lot of his men, and get a Brigadier General's commission. If it had not have been for him, we should have been in Washington long ago, as Provost Guard. The boys of the Regiment liked him very well when he first took command of us, but he has acted to confounded stiff that they are all down on him now, and would be very glad to find that the report was true, that he had resigned. I have written you in times past that the men were terribly down on the Lieut. Colonel. We did not know him so well as we do now. He is one of your hasty kind, and has got an excitable temper, but he soon gets over his fuss. The men like him much better than they used to. He is a kind hearted man with all his failings. If porter has resigned, Dalton will probably be our Colonel. I will let you know, when the change is made.

To-day we are enjoying the beauties of another snow-storm. It is splendid to be in camp during such weather. It has been snowing nearly all the forenoon, and is not about six inches deep. I am in hopes it will clear off before long, but the prospect is good for it to last the rest of the day, now. Won't it be tall walking for a few days when it comes to that. _____ I have not (giv{crossed out}) used up all the medicine that Mr. Dillingham was kind enough to send. I think he was very kind and I want you to thank him for it. Tell him I have got a plenty for the present, and hope I shall not have occasion to use it very often. I should like to see the "Household Pet and Darling". I can imagine the cunning little Gracie trotting round the house, talking and asking questions. She must be very interesting, according to the accounts you give. Hope we shall both live to see each other before a great while. Love to you, my dear mother, and hope and trust that we may be permitted to meet once more in the dear old homestead, with our home circle unbroken. Love to all the family and friends. Please write soon, and I will endeavor to do the same.

Your loving son,

Charlie Mac

Camp of the 40th Reg. Mass. Vols.
At Hunter's Chapel, Va.,
February 22^d, 1863

My beloved father:--Yours of the 15th came safely at hand at the proper time, and you may well believe received a cordial welcome from your loving and dutiful son, Charlie Mac Varlin. Bennie Mac Farlong has indeed, seen tougher times than I ever care to see. He has seen some pretty tough fights, that is a fact, but has thus far escaped without any serious injury. I hope he may live to get home, because I would like to hear him relate his adventures, in his own inimitable style. Bennie has done well, I think, to get his present position in the army. Hope he will continue to crawl up the military ladder as fast as he has done. To-days the birthday of the immortal Washington, is rather ^{an} unpleasant one in camp. We are enjoying all the benefits to be derived from a regular old fashioned "northeast snow storm. It seems more like winter in our old New England home, than it does like the mild and genial climate of the notorious so called "Sunny South." It commenced to snow at about twelve o'clock last night, and has been snowing ever since, with a good prospect of its continuing for some time to come. The snow is over a foot deep now. It is not very agreeable to be in a tent during such weather, but all we can do, is to "grin and bear it" the best way we can, and live in hopes of better weather sometime or rather, provided, however, it concludes not to clear off before. There is not much hopes of the consumption of such a desirable end, in this lovely country called Virginia. It is a magnificent territory, beautiful, climate, highly productive of niggers, and I don't know but what I shall settle here, after the close of the war. But to speak in earnest, I have not yet seen money enough, nor lan^d enough to tempt me to exchange places and live here. I had rather live in a creek house on herring & "scup-squeal" on the fair isle of the sea called Martha's Vineyard, "than to be worth a million, and be abliged to ~~stay~~ out here, a life time.

"Be it ever so homely, there is no place like home."--You may think from this that I am getting decidedly homesick, but old Vincent is not so bad off as this might lead you to infer. I am feeling better now than I have for a long, long while. My bowels have got to be now in quite decent trim, and I perceive that I gain strength nearly everyday. I shall probably go on what is termed "Sight Duty," sometime this week. Day before yesterday, I took a walk over towards the "Convalescent Camp," which is about two miles from our camp. I got along without feeling but very little fatigued. I walked between four and five miles, altogether, so you can see that I am on the mending hand. ¶ We don't have any picket duty to do here, and I am very glad of it, as long as we have such weather as we have had lately. Picketing is good sport in the summer time, because a fellow can take some comfort.—The boys are about the same as usual. Bunker cannot hear any better yet and I shouldn't think strange if he never did. I hope he will, because he is a good fellow, and it must be a great misfortune to be deprived of one's hearing. Frank Pease got his box last Thursday and I got my cake in good order. It was very good, and I was very glad to receive it. Wouldn't refuse one at most anytime, of a similar quality.

The next time any of you write I wish you send me postage stamps. They are hard to get, sometimes. You say that you have been in to see Dicky Shute's drum, and he told you I had written many a letter to you on it. Well, that is so, more than I shall write again I expect. Dick cuts a big swell, I suppose, sporting round with his regimentals. He

can tell you some big stories, I have no doubt but he knows but little of a soldier's life, although he has been out here.

He was never on "picket" but once, & consequently knows but little about that. When he was out he had nothing to do. And I believe he never stood guard but once and that was the next day after we got to Boxford. A drummer's berth is an easy one, and so is a Bugler's. I think Frank's luck has taken a decided turn for the better, don't you? He may consider himself a fortunate individual to get the position he now occupies. I am in hopes that my luck will turn before a great while.—I am very glad to hear that your health has been so good this winter, and that you have done so well, at the Great Pond. I suppose the Creek owners are in a terrible slew about its being let out. I am glad of it. Let them fret, and be hanged to them. They have done about as their were a mind to, "guest" as long as they had ought to.

I was glad to hear of the safe arrival of the letter to Ellen containⁱⁿg the \$10, I should have sent more, if it had not been for the reason that I thought it was better to keep some by one, as long as I felt unwell. A man can't get along and grow fat very fast on Government rations alone, Especially when he has a delicate appetite and is so situated that he is deprived of the staff of life, that is to say, Herring. It still remains to my limited comprehension an indisputable fact that although other people, who have enjoyed the beneficial effects of a more liberal education than I was fortunate enough to gain possession of and thereby having superior advantages of observation from which to deduce their assertions, yet nevertheless, to the contrary, notwithstanding I am yet to be convinced of the utility of any other substitute for the which I advocate as the standard article of substance for the family, viz:--Herring! Should you desire any stronger proof than I have here advanced, I would respectfully refer to my dear sister Ellen, whose love for this said staff of life can be satisfactorily proved by the persistent frequency with which she formerly referred to it.—Father, I think you do very well in writing to me as often as you do, because I know it is hard work for you. But let them come as often as you can for they are always very acceptable. I wish the dream of which you speak might prove to be a true one, ere many months more roll round. I trust that the war will not to say the least, last another winter. I am in hopes that something will turn up before long, now that Vincent is most ready to take to the field in person. But I must close for this time, by sending you my love to all the dear ones at home more especially, & friends in general. Will write again soon. Please accept this from your loving Son

Charlie Mac Varlin

Folly Island, South Carolina
September 9, 1863

Dear Sister Nellie:-

Nellie, how are you & how do you do? What are you doing? And how to you get along? I am pretty well, I thank you, but the weather is so confounded hot that I perspire at the thought of work. I have good news to tell you, although it will probably reach you by paper before this reaches you. Parris Island is ours. The Rebs evacuated the island Sunday (evening{crossed out}) night, leaving Batteries Gregg and Wagner in our possession and our troops now occupy them, or at least occupy Wagner. Fort Sumter is nothing but a mass of ruins, and is worthless to either the Rebs or Feds. Routhie and Johnson have got to come to it, and then Charleston is in our possession. Won't that be glorious news, hey? It is got to succumb, sooner or later, and I believe the day is not far off. The obstructions which the Rebs have placed in the harbor to prevent our vessels from running in, is about all there is to hinder us from taking this secession hot hole, and nursery of treason. Yankee ingenuity will invent something to remove these obstacles, speedily. We are all cheerful, and confident of success. I want to be among the number that will enter and occupy this place. It will be an honor worth striving for, and won't we wake up their dry bones with the shouts of Freedom and Liberty to all men. Well, I don't want to say too much before the thing is definitely settled, but will wait awhile, hoping I shall be able to lead my communications ere long at Charleston, S.C.

We are having comparatively easy times since we came on to this island. No duty of any consequence to perform, and are fattening up as fast as the rations and weather will admit of. My health is now as good as it has been for two months, and I guess I shall be able to stand up with the most of them. I have been favored since my sickness of last winter and desire to be thankful for the same. Out of the 98 men in our company when we left Massachusetts, one year ago yesterday, we can only muster forty men for duty, and that is more, I guess, than any other Co. in the regiment can say. And when I come to think of this, I feel thankful that I am among the forty on duty. Three members of our Company have gone to their long homes. Twelve have been discharged, one deserted, and the rest are sick in various places. The 40th Mass. Can muster but about 300 men for duty now, but there are about 850 men connected with it now. But enough of these statistics. You see what hard marching has done for us.

I was much rejoiced to receive a letter from Frank last Sunday, bearing date Aug 30, and was pleased to learn that I had a box on the route here. It is what I had thought of sending for, but the uncertainty of our staying here any length of time, made me hesitate to send for it. I have not yet received it, but probably shall some time this week. Will let you know when it arrives. I should really like to see the Monohansett, and Capt. Crowell, Charlie Smith's Reg. I have not seen Lieut. Sweet since we came from Morris Island but shall probably see him again soon.

Well, sis, I begin to think that there is a prospect of our getting down or rather up, towards Massachusetts again, after Charleston falls. I entertain some hopes that my services (will{crossed out}) may possibly be dispensed with so that I can come home and see you in the course of a year. I don't see how the thing can hold out any longer than that. What is the opinion of the wise ones at home? I shall be pretty well satisfied if I get

out of this scrape by serving two years of my life. ___ I want to see this infernal rebellion played out and am going to “endeavor to try” to perform something that will help bring the desired end, and shall have to trust to chances about getting out ^{of it} safe.

I have a great desire to see my little niece. I expect she is some pumpkins, by what you all write to me. Tell her to remember Uncle Charlie, and he wants to see her drefffully, and sends her a whole peck of love. Give my love to father, mother, brother and all hand. Save a sufficiency for yourself. But I will close for this time.

Accept this from,
Your Loving Brother
Charlie Mac

Please give the enclosed note to Frank. I oblige Charlie.

Folly Island, S.C. Oct. 15th, 1863

My dearly beloved father:-

Quite a length of period has elapsed since I wrote to you individually, but from no lack of love for you has this occurred. There are so many to write to that I write first to the first one that comes to mind, supposing of course that you get the news first as well. I intend to give you all a turn, but sometimes do not write as often as I could wish to. We are kept pretty busily employed to most of the time, now-a-days, although our labor is not very hard or so fatiguing as in Virginia. Our camp duties are a good deal harder but we have no hard marches and therefore manage it very well. We are ^{out} most every night laying on reserve, ready for the Rebs should they make an attempt to gain a foothold on this island. If they are wise they will let us alone for they will certainly get particular fits if they come round this way.

I don't think there is much danger to be apprehended on that score, but still it is best to keep on the safe side, for we all know it would be enough sight easier to keep them off the island than it would to allow them a foothold, and then have to drive them. ___ Could you have seen our Regiment when we left Boston Sept. 8th, 1862 with over 1000 men and then behold it now, with less than 300 men for duty, you would scarcely know us. Now, we, I suppose, have been reckoned among the lucky Reg'ts – having had no severe engagements_ and yet one short year has shorn us of about 700 men, unable to perform military duty. Such are the results of hard marching and scanty fare. _ When I come to think of this fact, I feel that I ought, and cannot be too thankful, that my life has been spared, and be able to count myself as one of the “availables”. I have indeed been blessed in this respect since I recovered from my protracted illness of last winter. I suppose I was about as poor in flesh as any one ever was and be able to walk around. But I got thoroughly acclimated in that siege, and have stood a great many hard knocks since, that have proved fatal to many of my comrades and fellow soldiers. The death of poor Bennie Smith was a hard blow for me, leaving me, as it did, alone of the Edgartown boys in Company D. 40th Mass. V. I weigh about 150 now, and that is pretty fair for me you know. _ I would very much like to have yours and mother's picture sent to me. I kind a want to see the shadow once in a while when I know it is ^{an} impossibility to see the fleshy substance. I really intended to have sent mine home long before this time, but have been unable to get one taken since we left the environs of Washington, and then I was so “frim” that I knew you would be alarmed to see it, and thus the matter stands at the present time. There is no chance for one here on the island but the first opportunity I get, I shall improve it, rest assured.

I have got a very good tent & what is far better good tent-mates. Four of us comprise the crew. Elbridge S. Pond & Albert L. Hawkins of Wrentham, George W. Hathaway of Freetown, and your red-headed hopeful, from Edgartown, constitute the household. Mr. Pond is a very nice, intelligent man, and a man of good principles. Hawkins and Hathaway are also good, steady fellows. I consider myself pretty fortunate in my situation.

Of affairs in this part of the world, where the eyes of so many true patriots are directed, with the desire to hear of the downfall of the secession hot hole, I am almost entirely ignorant. Have to depend on Northern papers for our information most of the time. All I know is that Gen. Gillmore has not abandoned the siege, nor has he no intentions

of so doing, as far as I can learn, but ^{is} progressing slowly and surely, and will bring things around all right in time. This is a place that cannot be taken in a moment, but has got to be taken by (a {crossed out}) regular siege approaches. _ I guess I shall not be able to eat chowder with you this winter, but am in hopes to eat some by another year with you, if God spares my life. _ Love to all the home circle. I received a letter from Frank this morning of Date Cot. 6th was very glad to hear. We are having weather here, pretty comfortable, I suppose Jack Frost has paid you a visit at home by this time. Please write as often as possible, for your letters are always welcomed by your loving son Charlie Mac.

Folly Island S.C.

Friday Morning, Oct 23rd

Dear Brother Freddie

I am going to send you this little paper, and hope it will please you. Have not time to write much for I have written a long letter to Frank with all the news.

The wind blows hard here to-day, and I expect we are going to have a storm soon.

I am well. How do you get along? I expect you are a regular staver by this time. Be a good boy, and learn all you can, and help father all you can, and you will never be sorry for it. I suppose Gracie is as cunning as can be, and I know you must love her a lot. How are Ben and Fede! Are they as big rogues as ever. I should like to see them all, but shall have to wait a while.

Give my best respects to all my friends. Love to all the folks

I want you should write me a good long letter very soon. You have not written to me for a long time, and I think its about time for you to write. It will be a good idea for you to write because you will learn a great deal

Well, Freddie be a good boy, and do all you can for your father and mother. I should like to see you very much. But I must bid you good bye.

From your loving brother
Charlie Mac

Minor's Hill Virginia
Thursday Evening, Oct. 30

Dear Mother:- I received your very welcome letter at a late hour last night, and should have answered it before, but I have been too busy or too lazy today. I have been busy most of the time getting ready for inspection to-morrow. The whole Brigade will probably be inspected to-morrow and every man has to have every thing in the best possible order so as to pass a satisfactory examination. I have not time to say but very little, because it most bedtime; so I must beg you to excuse the hurried manner in which this is written, and I will try to do better next time. I was much pleased with your letter, and it did me a deal of good to hear that you were getting along so nicely. I shall want you to send my boots just as soon as they can be forwarded, because my shoes are beginning to give out, and I don't want to draw another pair this winter, and the wet season will set in very soon, in fact we had quite a touch of it last Sunday. It rained very hard, and the sod of Virginia is of such a style that it makes very bad walking. The weather is very pleasant, now, however. I wrote you in another letter a few days ago what I wanted, and all that I can think of now that I want is a flannel bandage to wear around my body. You know that the one I have now, is rather thin flannel, and then if I have another I shall have a change. That is about all that I need just now except some more letter paper, and some good thick envelopes, and some postage stamps, as those you sent before are about used up. Postage Stamps are very scarce in this country.

Tell Freddie that I have not forgotten him, but shall write him a letter very soon. I thought about him several times yesterday, it being his birthday, I believe 12 years old. I expect he is a strapper now. I did not get Frank's letter in time to answer it, so that he could get it before he left, but am writing a kind of journal of the past few days which I shall forward to him as soon as I know where to direct to find him.

Speaking about a journal "reminds" me that I have most filled that book that you sent to me and shall want another very soon. Perhaps you better send it in the box, if you have not sent it. If you have, I can get one here at the sutler's. I shall send that one home as soon as I get it filled. But I must close by sending love to you and all the rest of the friends in any quantity. I hope that you will find every thing all correct in this letter, but it is very doubtful, as I have had to write in a great hurry. More love, still more love, ditto for love, more love if wanted.

In haste,
Your affectionate son
Charles Mac Vincent

Folly Island, S.C. (Oct. {crossed out}) Nov. 1st, 1863

Dear father:-

The mail arrived in camp last evening for the first time in a week and I am happy to state brought me a letter from Frank of the 23^d _ also from you of the 25th. You may confidently believe that they were welcomed by your second son, and having a few leisure moments this Sunday, concluded I would answer forthwith.

Was very glad to hear that you were all so well, but was sorry to hear of the death of Mrs. Luce, although expecting it. She was a good and estimable old lad, and I always loved and respected her. I well recollect the last time I saw her. The poor old lady seemed to be considerably affected when I was coming away, and gave me her blessing with the tears coursing down her cheeks. I always thought that she liked me pretty well, and I am sincerely sorry that she is dead. Poor Sam and Eliza will be lonesome enough I expect. Give them my love when you have an opportunity.

We have a pretty strong breeze from the south-east to-day. _ The weather is warm, but has been so cool the past week that overcoats have been none too warm for comfort. I think we shall have some rain before a great while from the present appearance of things. _ I have been very busy this week, having been engaged in writing for the Quartermaster two days and making out the Company & Muster Rolls, a portion of the week. Finished the Rolls yesterday afternoon. _

We have first got a new first Lieutenant, and he is as green as a next year's cabbage. If I couldn't handle a company of men better than he does, I would throw up my commission in "double quick time," and retire to private life, and live on the interest of my debts. _ Well, perhaps my turn will come sometime or other. When the war is ended if not before, I should like very much to come home and spend a few days with you, but I am afraid I shall be unable to spend Thanksgiving with you "ish year", notwithstanding the tempting offers you make in your letter. I should be glad to come "with Zephanish & Hezekiah, (and {crossed out}) Ann Maria Jane & Sophia, but "can't see it yet", or in more refined terms, "am unable to discuss the come". I'll tell you what I would like though, and that is a good dish of fish and potatoes, even if I wasn't calculating on "running the press". _

I was glad to hear that you had been on a visit to the "City of Notorious". Hope you enjoyed yourself. Did you see Allen Weeks? Allen has been very kind to me since I came out here. Sends me papers quite frequently. He is a good, whole-souled fellow, and I ^{wish} him success.

I was sorry to learn that provisions were so high at home. You said you could not afford to burn coal. Well, now, I advise you to buy some. I'll furnish the funds, and most gladly too. Take some and all if you need it, of the little sum I left at home. I have often written to you and mother not to suffer for anything while there is a shot in the locker belonging to me. I shall consider myself happy if I can in the least degree do something for my dear parents' comfort, and think it small return enough for the many kindnesses and favors I have received from you when I was dependent upon you for my rations. I mean what I say, so don't have any scruples about the matter. I am young-you are getting aged. _ If I live to get out of this service alive and well, I have no fears but what I can maintain myself easily, and if I fall in the service of my beloved country, I certainly shall not need it.

The Batteries on Morris Island have been actively engaged for the last four or five days in firing at poor old Sumter, but with what success I am not able to say, though the camp is rife with rumors to the effect that it has surrendered. The thing I know (sic), and that is that firing is still going on {crossed out word} day from our birds. _ Parrotts_ They enunciate in thunder tones death to secession. Gen. Gillmore, will do something pretty soon I think. You see the fact of the matter is, _ it is useless for him to attempt anything further, without the aid of the navy, and the navy cannot do much until the obstructions in the harbor are removed and that is a mighty difficult job to undertake. Yankee ingenuity has got to invent something to clear the way, and when that is done, Charleston is doomed.

We serve to keep a large number of men from reinforcing Bragg, if nothing else. _ Charleston can be destroyed at short notice, but what good will result from it I can't see, for we cannot occupy it right away. I want to go in there and perform Provost Duty, and see who the "secesh" would unite itself. Hope I shall be able to soon.

There is but little else of interest to write about, so I shall have to quit soon. _ Love to all the dear home circles. _ How I should like to step into the old washroom, and have a smoke with you. Shall come as soon as possible. Won't we have a good time, talking about war and herring, Charleston and Trapps Creek, and all the other subjects of note. _ How does the old "punt ibus" get along. Those "socko dolorego's" you speak about make me wish I was there, sometimes, but I am more needed out here, and consequently shall stop till my services can be dispensed with.

With "The Union forever"

"Freedom for all" as my closing sentiment I bid you a kind good day.

Your affectionate son

Charlie Mac Varlin.

Folly Island, S.C. Nov. 7th, 1863

Dear Mother:-

Well, I do say for it, Aunt Harriet it is nation droll, that I have not written to you for nearly or quite a fortnight, two weeks, fourteen days, or somewhere thereaways moreabout. It is of no possible use for me to proceed to enumerate the causes thereof, or to assure you that it is from no waning love towards my female "parient", that you have not been more promptly attended to. It is simply a work of supererogation to enter into any such details, for the reason that, if at this time after so many decided affirmations on my part, you doubt the fact_ why then all that I can say or do, will prove utterly futile to convince you so late in the fall.

Here it is, almost winter, although in the latitude where I now reside, I should not know it from appearances, but should need to be told of it.

One year ago to-day, we were at Minor's Hill, in a heavy snow-storm, with no stoves to (shield or rather {crossed out}) warm us, and certainly I passed a most uncomfortable day. To-day_ how different the scene and climate. Here I am seated in my tent, in my shirtsleeves, sweating while writing this note to those at home, whom I feel assured are deeply interested in the welfare of Charlie Mac.

Yesterday I had a very pleasant time. I was on a "fatigue" detail at the landing at Stone Inlet, and had but very little work to do. While down by the shore I looked of in the stream and saw the good old Monohansett lying there. Well you may believe without my saying it, that the sight of her was good for sore eyes. I then bumped her for the wharf, and caught sight of old Captain Crowell looming up like the lighthouse on Cape Poge, and soon hailed him. He seemed to be pleased to see me and wanted I should go aboard with him and get some dinner. I told him I should like to go first-rate, so I took a trip to see the Corporal in charge of our fatigue party so that he would know where I was, but could not find him. Well, say I, Vincent, it won't do to be bluffed off this was so I just went off on my own hook, and trusted luck for the consequences. So off I went and soon had the pleasure of stepping on the good old Monohansett's deck once more, and best of all had the pleasure of seeing a lot of old friends. Charlie Smith, Capt. W. Fisher, the Engineer, Tommy Gardner, one of the firemen, Capt. Fisher's son, & last but by no means least good old Fred Cook. I felt about as glad to see Fred as any man aboard of her. Had a good dinner, and when I came away, Charlie Smith gave ^{me} a can of blueberries, holding two quarts or more, and some nice oranges right from St. Augustine, Fla. Lieut. Sweet is Provost Marshal(1{crossed out}) there and was well and hearty at last accounts. I was very much pleased with my presents, and think he was extremely kind. He wished to be remember to all the folks, and wanted I should come aboard first as often as I could. I told him he might depend upon it, I should improve every opportunity I could obtain. Had no trouble when I got back. Corporal said it was all right, and didn't blame me a might. So I had a good time, no work of any account to do, and to make a long story short, had a very pleasant "fatigue" day. Hey, what think? They can't wool me much on any such work as that.

In regard to the contemplated movements of Gen. Gillmore towards Charleston, I must confess my entire ignorance. I suppose it will be done some time or other, but when that time will come, I cannot say.

My health still continues excellent. Weighed one hundred and fifty-four, avoirdupois_ or take Troy weight_ generally used for weighing precious metals and I should reach the sum ^{of} two hundred and five pounds. Supposeg me to ^{be} worth my weight in gold_ rather a conceited supposition I'll admit, and I should be worth \$40,360.00_ Quite a valuable article _ ain't I _ first supposing the case you know _ And I firmly believe if I could once more be where I (was{crossed out}) could diet for a short season on fish and potatoes, and run the press besides I could increase even these high figures.

There seems to be absolutely everything to write about in this department. I have had no letter from home for a week. Received a paper from Capt. Smith yesterday, but no letters am in hopes to soon. I want your photograph or "carte visile", also father's and Freddie's. I was much pleased to receive Frank's, Ellen's and Gracie's. I should like to see you all in the flesh but as that is an impossibility at present, the shadow thereof would afford me some gratification. I shall (soon{crossed out}) certainly improve the first opportunity that offers to have mine taken because I suppose you want to see me.

The probabilities are that I shall be on guard to-morrow, consequently I Thought I would say a few words to-day.

Love to all the friends and relatives on my native isle as well as elsewhere.

Write early and write often.

The is supposed to be from.

Your son Charlie Mac

I use considerable some few, occasionally once in a while postage stamps.

Otter Island S.C. Nov 23 1863

Paternal progenitor:-

Me thinks I'll address thee. Have not much to say, but small favors are better than none as you oftentimes assured me.

This being a day of no vast amount of business on hand and having for a long time neglected to write much to you or any of the family, I have arrived at the definite conclusion that I had best employ my moments of leisure in an attempt to enlighten you as to the present occupation and duties of your red-head Mac.

Unquestionably you have been led to suspect that something was the matter from the fact of my letters having been very few and far between for some two or three weeks just passed.- Well something had been the matter. Since the departure of Co. D. from Folly Island and their subsequent installation as "grand guards" of that portion of South Carolina soil styled Otter Island, the facilities we have enjoyed for epistolary conference has been extremely limited & as a natural result has diminished the number of my feeble eruditions perceptibly. The same causes have also diminished the receipt of the those highly prized communications from loved ones, far away, in their peaceful homes by the "deep heavind sea."

Last Thursday morning at an early hour in company with Capt. Danforth, I started for Folly Island, for the purpose of getting our rations, and returned the next day. On my arrival in camp, I found that the mail had arrived, and brought one letter for me from my worthy brother Frank and one from Capt J. Smith. The Gazette failed to reach me, I was very sorry that such was the case, because I was extremely desirous of seeing the election returns of Little "Dukes" but am in hopes it will yet appear all right.- Please tell Mr. Cooms that he had better change the direction of my paper to Port Royal, S.C. instead of Washington.-

The results of the November elections all over the North are peculiarly gratifying to the humble soldiers of the Army now battling for (^ the) salvation of all men, the preservation of the Union, the Supremacy of our free Constitution, and crushing of the infamous Rebellion now in progress in this once thrice happy and peaceful country. Nothing could have been done at home that would and does encourage them (^ more) in their path of duty, and assure them that their efforts are being appreciated by the intelligent masses of the North. Just as good as a victory won on the field of battle and attained with infinitly less bloodshed and sorrow.

Last Friday I was twenty years old. Can you realize it? When I enlisted ~~near~~ fifteen months ago to-day, I thought that by my twentieth birthday, should my life be spared, I should be at home with the rebellion quelled, and our land once more made happy with the blessings of peace. But I had not been in the service but a short time, ere I became convinced of the fallacy of entertaining any such thoughts, but made up my mind that it would require more time than that and as things now look, I am inclined to believe that at least one year more will be required to finish this thing up in such a manner that the fire will never again break forth with so much fury. I don't want any patchwork about the matter. When the thing is closed I want the treaty, one that will last forever. I cannot be too thankful that my life has been spared while so many of my comrades have departed from me, and I hope that I may be permitted to see the end of this unholy war and then return to home and friends to enjoy the blessings that I can say with a feeling of

satisfaction, I rendered my feeble aid to preserve. That will be "de happy day I been" as Johny Randall says.

The 40th has for it commander, once more a Colonel. He is a new man, or new to us, having been promoted from a 1st Lieutenant in the Regular U.S. Artillery to his present important station. He assumed command the day after we left camp, consequently we have had no opportunity of testing his administration, or of deciding as to our opinions of him. Report says however, that he is a smart officer rather strict in discipline, but looks well to the interests of his men. From what I can learn, both firm facts and rumors, I (^ am) disposed to the belief that we shall like him well. Hope so, certainly. Now to something else.

Some two or three months ago, I received a letter from Uncle Richard, in which he strongly intimated a desire to serve me is some way. I thought (^ of) the manner he proposed seriously at the time, and finally came to the conclusion to remain quiet and make no attempt for the present and stated my reasons for such a step in a letter to some of you. It is an extremely delicate job for a private to solicit anything of the nature to which he referred from a commissioned officer and more particularly so in the case where the officer has townsmen in his company, he would naturally give them the preference and so I did not try. I should not want a chance in my own regiment, but if I could get an appointment to some vacancy that might occur in ~~the~~ some colored Regiment. I should like it much. I think (pardon the conceit) that I could sustain my part there as well as many of them that now occupy similar positions, with the practical knowledge of fifteen months service, and with the aid of a little study could soon hold up my end of the stick. The 55th Mass. would suit me the best of any one that I am at present cognizant of.- The best way that I know of, would be for some of you at home that possess political influence ~~would be~~ to write to Gov. Andrew through our Councillor, if no better way affords desiring my position to the first vacancy in one of the Mass Colored Reg'ts. He would probably write to the Colonel of our Reg't for information as to my soldierly qualities & c & c. He not being acquainted would probably refer to Capt. Danforth for his opinion. If favorable to me he would probably endorse Capt. D's opinion and forward the same to Headq's again. It would also be well enough to write something to Captain Danforth at the same time, certifying as to the character and reputation I sustained at home. Make the case as strong as possible and put her through if you are a mind to. If you fail, I shall not me any worse off than I now am. That's so.

You can do as you see fit. Please tell Uncle Richard that any assistance he could render me would be most gratefully received and always be remembered by me.- Frank & you can do something if you set about it. It is worth trying for anyhow. \$100 per month is better than \$13. Hey! what think!- Don't think by this (^ I am) growing discontented where I now am,- for such is not the fact. I have only come to the conclusion that I might as well have something of that kind as well as hosts of others, and I honestly believe I can serve my country as well in that position as the one I now occupy. If the "Powers that be" decree otherwise, and sentence me to remain where I now am. I shall cheerfully acquiesce in their decision, and strive to do my duty acceptably, as I have ever striven to do. If you think favorably of this affair please inform me. Use your own judgement. You will know best how the land lays and how the cat jumps. I guess I have said enough on this subject.

We have a cool, raw, easterly wind to-day, with spats of rain occasionally. _ We are getting along finely however.

We are (^ daily) expecting to be ordered back to camp, our new Colonel being desirous of having a full regiment. On some accounts I like the idea first rate of returning but on others desire to remain where I now am. On the whole thought I think it will be for my interest to return to our Folly Island home again.

Have no news of importance to write about relating affairs in this department. Since we came down here, we have been almost out of the world for news.

The name of our Colonel is Guy V. Henry

Thanksgiving is close by us, but what I shall have for dinner, I don't know, but probably "salt horse & hard tack" Ain't that fit for a King! If you have any doubts on this subject please ask Frank for his opinion in the matter. I want very much to see you all, and have a right down smart, good time. That happy (^ day) is coming, I fondly believe, and when it is does come, why I reckon we will have a jubilee.

I suppose it is about time for Uncle Ben to be at home. Wish I could be there to see him. Just tell him that Mac is all right and bound not to be clean down to the bottom of the heap, if possible. Love to all the friends and neighbors. - Think of nothing else to say just at this time. Shall write again

Your son

Charlie

(this part written in pencil instead of ink like the rest of the letter on the bottom of last page)

Beaufort Nov 27. The first chance I have had to send. We are bound back to Folly Island. - In case you should do anything keep it as mum as possible, so that if unsuccessful no one will be the wiser for it. Don't let Capt. Danforth know that I know anything about the movement

Am well

In great hands

Charlie

Folly Island, S.C.
Nov. 29th, 1863

Dearly beloved Mother:

Well, here we are, back again once more to our old home Folly Island. We arrived here yesterday morning, after an absence of eighteen days. Found everything going on in apple pie order, and seemingly, just ^{as} well as though we hadn't been away. We brought lumber with us from Otter Island so that we could stockade our tents, and consequently we were quite busy all day yesterday, in getting our habitations ready to move into. Last night we had a fine opportunity of testing the advantage of having a good stockade, for we were visited by one of the severest thunder storms I have ever experienced in South Carolina. We kept comfortably dry and woke up this morning, just as good as new. It is a nasty, foggy, disagreeable, unpleasant, wet, gloomy, dismal, uncomfortable, lazy-feeling, blue misty day.—this 29th of November. I think that there is a string of adjectives long enough for me to claim some relationship to the renowned Jesse Pease, Hey! What do you think about it?—We have just signed the pay-rolls, and tomorrow shall be paid off for two months (to the first of November) in all probability. So we shall be in funds again.

The other day I sent a letter to and wrote a P.S. at Branfort, S.C. The reasons for my being there I suppose you would like to have explained.—So here goes—Thursday afternoon we left Otter Island with bag and baggage on our return to Folly. WE embarked on the Peconic once more, and she having business down to Hilton Head we went there previous to going home to Folly. We were very much pleased with this idea, and finally left Otter Island at dark that night and went on the inside route to Branfort and then to Hilton Head, arriving at the latter place about 10 o'clock. We passed the Monohansett lying at H.H. We remained here but a few moments, and then went to Branfort again. Her we had to wait to obtain a chance for the steamer to get in a supply of coal. After some delay, which was very acceptable to us, she commenced, taking in her coal and at about eleven Friday forenoon, we started on our way rejoicing. Branfort, in its pristine days must have been a very pleasant city, and even now it is not without many attractive spots and beautiful scenery. Here you can see the oranges growing profusely, and it was enough to make one's mouth water to behold the golden fruit with which the trees were so bountifully laden, even at this late period of the year. The chief business of the town at present is almost entirely monopolized by Uncle Samuel's officials. Gen. Rufus Saxton, the military Governor of South Carolina, has here his head quarters. I had the pleasure of saluting him, and having the salute returned "a-la militaire." He is a fine looking officer, and I think is well fitted for his position. On cruising around the town I found the office of the "Free South," published here, went in, introduced myself as a brother "typo," and received a very cordial welcome. They gave me a couple of papers, one of which I sent to father.—Take it on the whole I had quite a pleasant time.

I found a letter from you, here yesterday, mailed the 20th, my birthday, and was indeed glad to get it; also a Gazette of Nov. 13. I have not received the Gazette of Nov. 6th, just the one I wanted the most, and I want you to send it just as soon as you can. Have not heard a word from the election in Dukes County, in consequence of the failure

to get said paper. As a general thing they came very regular, but the most interesting one seems to be among the missing this time.

Our new colonel is putting us through a severe course of military discipline than we have ever before been subjected to. He is a strict disciplinarian but seems kind withal. He says he is going ^{to} make the 40th Mass. The best regiment in every respect, in the Volunteer Army. He says it is composed of the best material in the service, and has got to do the best. Only think of that! Your son a “material” Everything has to be kept bright and clean. Brasses polished, guns scrupulously clean, and dazzlingly bright, shoes unexceptionably blacked and made to shine like a mirror, white gloves on dress parade and guard, with the strap of your cap under your under lip, &^c, &^c. How we shall like him, I can’t say as yet. Hope—Well—

We have one good thing connected with our Regiment, and that is a Circulating Library for the Soldiers, comprising some very interesting volumes I obtained one to-day.—“El Fureidis” by Miss Cummings authoress of the “Lamplighter.” Have not had a chance to read it yet. Am anticipating an intellectual treat, if it equals the other productions of her pen. I am very glad that we have this, for it will afford amusement of the right stamp to the soldiers.

What do you think of the subject which I alluded to in Father’s letter. I want you to see what Uncle Richard thinks about it, and let me know as soon as you are a mind to, if he ^{and father} concludes to do anything in regard to the matter. I believe it is worth trying for, and if I don’t succeed it will hurt no one and I shall not be any worse off than I am now.

Let them be cautious, and not make too much stir about town. I have no need to say anything of that sort, however. Don’t let the Capt. Danforth know that I am aware of what is going on, because I had much rather he should think I knew nothing ^{about it} nor expected anything higher than a “high private in the front ranks”

This is a pretty big sheet of paper to write a letter upon, and I have written about all I have to say this time. I want the box sent along as soon as possible for I need some of the things I sent for.—I don’t blame you, but still would like to have it.—Your excuses were very reasonable.—Love to all the dear folks at home,—I think I shall try and write a few line for the Gazette, the first opportunity this week. Have no time to-day. Have got to write some for the Captain.—I hope Freddie will be well by the time this note reaches home. Remember me kindly to all my friends, and accept the assurance of the love bourne towards you by

Your absent soldier-boy
Charlie Mac Vincent

Nov. 30- Cold as furry, Ice made as thick as window glass last night, and to-day it has blown gale from the North West. Have had hard work to keep warm. Prospect of a cold night this last Nov. day. I have engaged in writing at the quarter Master’s to-day, and shall probably be employed therefor two or three days.—Good night. Write soon and don’t forget to send the Gazette I spoke about. Lovingly

Charlie Mac.

Let me know if father has got the letter I mailed at Branfort. – Charlie

Camp of the 40th Reg. Mass. Vol. In'fty
Folly Island, S.C.
December 6, 1863

Dear kind Mother:-

Another Sabbath in the army. How unlike the Sabbath at home on the good old isle of the sea called Martha's Vineyard, are the scenes and duties here on this day of rest. At home, the church bells are pealing forth their chimes bidding the weary, toilworn laborer come and listen to words calculated to ennoble and interest him. Here, it is fall in for inspection, and look as well as you can. It is true we have but comparatively little to do on the Sabbath as a general thing, but for all that, I think there is a good deal done, that night, be avoided. However it is all military, and like the good, obedient solders we profess to be, we have nothing to do but to obey.

We have just got our quarters fitted up in first rate style, and are anticipating some comfort the present winter. Have but three in our tent now. We are going to get a stove from the sutler's tomorrow and so shall be rigged for cold weather. The stoves cost about \$5, (and {crossed out}). Pretty stiff price, but I am in for taking all the comfort I can while in the army, cost what it will. I calculate at present prices, that if I get along without spending any more than my wages, I shall do well. Must have a few luxuries occasionally to sustain nature. Butter at 50^c. Cheese at 30^c. & things in that ratio, you see it costs something to live, and I am bound to live if there is any such thing in my book. – Don't you think it is best too? Soldier's life at the best has none too many comforts, and I believe it is best to take comfort, and if you can't take comfort, why, then take all the comfort you can. Ain't that good logic hey?

During the past week, I have been busily engaged in writing for the Quarter Mater. I like the change very well once in a while, from the ordinary duties of a soldier. This may work in for my benefit some time or other.

The weather at present is quite pleasant, but for a few days at the first of the week it was hard work to keep comfortable, and made some ice here. The climate is healthy and the health of the regiment is now pretty good. Only about 75 in the sick-list, and the most of them are rapidly convalescing. Since we came into this Department we have lost about fifty men by death, and strange to say, out of that number, Co. D. has not lost a man. I think we have ^{been} extremely fortunate in this respect. _ Poor Bennie died in Alexandria, and we have not lost a man since. Speaking of Bennie reminds me that you have written to me a number of times about saying or rather writing something for the Gazette in relation to him. I have often thought I ought to and have even begun one or two letters for that purpose, but for various reasons, never finished them. I have not had the time to devote, to write anything that I deemed suitable for the public eye and so have let it pass until the present time. Now it seems to me almost too late for anything of the kind, as I hear by way of a letter from Capt. Smith to one of the members of our Company, that his remains had been brought home and interred, and so have about given up the idea. _ The first convenient opportunity, however, I intend to improve, and if possible, to dictate with my pen, some few things that may possibly deserve passing notice, and forward it to Mr. Cooms.

For him to pass judgment upon, and if found worthy, let him set his “devils” to work, and put in type for the edification of the public generally, and Gazette readers in particular. After we get a little regulated in camp, I am in hope to find tie to scratch a little with the pen occasionally, say a little more frequently than heretofore.

When I was in Branfort the other day, which cruising around the streets, and eyeing many nice looking things wistfully, but had not the wherewithal to make myself possessor of them (having only 25^{cts} in my pocket), (when{crossed out}) I chanced to go into one of the stores there, kept by an old gentleman, and purchased a little butter for my breakfast, when in the course of conversation, I found he was formerly a Massachusetts man, from the Cape. He asked me where I was from. I told him Martha’s Vineyard. And then he told me there was a Pease from Edgartown that married his niece. The Pease referred to was Isaiah D. Pease, your brother; and his niece I found was formerly Sarah E. Allen, now Sarah E. Pease. I informed him of my relationship to Uncle Isaiah. Said he heard from Aunt Sarah once in a while, and asked me in regard to her health and also the health of his family. Quite singular, was it not, that I should fall in with him. Please tell Aunt Sarah of the circumstance. He was looking quite well, although he is quite an old man. Said he had been in Branfort about thirty years, and had been North but once in that time, I think. _____

Have just finished my dinner. You may ^{feel} curious (enough{crossed out}) to know what it consisted of. Fresh meat soup with potatoes and onions in it. _ Quite a good mess for a “soldiers”.

By the last mail we received the confirmation of some glorious news. viz: The great victory achieved by Gen. Grant’s Army of the Mississippi. Such news as that cheers my heart amazingly. For I consider every victory, as so much less time for me to remain in the army, and bringing the close of this deplorable war so much nearer. _ Have a little selfish interest in the matter, I must admit, but I still trust that love for my country is stronger than selfish desires. I want to see this war terminated as speedily as possible, and peace restored again to this land. I think that affairs never looked brighter for such an event than they do at the present time.. Judging from the present appearances, I cannot see how they can sustain themselves much longer. And I now have strong hopes that ere another winter shall roll around, I shall be privileged to return to my dear island home, to enjoy the comforts of home and the society of dear friends. I believe that I shall know how to appreciate such things if I ever get where I can enjoy them.- How is father, now? Does he not feel encouraged at the prospects? _ _

I have nearly finished one of the journals you sent me, and shall want another book. I have a diary that I have kept wherein I have noted down all events of interest, so that I can as soon as I find time, copy them off in shape. _ I have got plenty of “texts”, so I can serminize from them at the first opportunity.

Love to all my friends, and especially to the dear “home circles”.._ Give my very best love to Aunt Mary West, and tell her I have not forgotten her letter, but shall try and answer it very soon. _ Hurry up the box. Write often and all the news you can! & believe me your loving son,

Charlie Mac

(* Transcriber's note: The letter is continued from its end back to the first page, written upside-down. This will be written at the end of the text.)

Camp of the 40th Mass. Vols. Infty
Folly Island, S.C.
December 11th, 1863

My much-loved sister Ellen:-

The mail has arrived, and to my great delight, brought me a letter from you, my dear sister. You are so extremely sparing of your epistolary favors, that when I do get one from me sister, I prize it highly. It was the first letter I had had from home for nearly a fortnight, and as a natural consequence I had become somewhat anxious to hear from home, concerning your condition and occupation. Was extremely glad to learn that you were all doing so well. Am sorry that poor Freddie has had such a siege but am led to hope from the tone of your letter that he is on the gaining hand. I hope he will soon be restored again to health. Tell him I want to see him very much. Think I could live with him as much as ten or fifteen minutes without having a "row" with him. ___ You spoke of feeling rather lonesome Thanksgiving Day. Well, no one would have rejoiced more to have been with you, than your humble servant. That's so every time; but the powers that be, decreed otherwise, and as in duty bound to do, I had to submit to the mandate, with as good grace as possible. Hope, is all that keeps men alive. Many times the pictures engendered by her, prove ^{as} delusive as castles builded in the air, that vanish with the first puff of wind, beyond the sight of human eyes. Nevertheless, it is pleasant, even, to suffer one's self to do this deluded, for it affords one temporary amusement, and carries ^{his} thoughts away from the trials, and hardships incident to the life I am now leading. _ "Hope on, hope ever" is an old maxim, and certainly deserves to be remembered. ___ Well, then, I hope that ere the time shall come, when the next anniversary of the time-honored, purely New England institution of "Thanksgiving," ^{shall arrive} I shall be permitted to be with you, and I hope the day will soon come when we shall meet again, ~~in ere~~ An unbroken band, around the dear old hearthstone, now so far away from me. God grant that the time may speedily come, when such an inestimable boon shall be mine, with our nation's wound healed, after having the old "core" ^(slavery) crushed out and destroyed. I believe that day will come. I believe that the Good Being who rules above, will not permit the wrong to triumph, but in His own good time, when we shall have been sufficiently humbled and furnished for our nation's many sins, he will permit the angel of peace to descend from his star-gemmed home, and pour oil on the troubled waters of our nations ~~front~~ disturbance, & can say "peace! be still." _ Then shall the swords be beaten into the ploughshares, and the spears into pruning hooks." _

The glorious news from all quarters, both a political as well as ^{of a} warlike nature (~~matters~~), causes me to rejoice and feel exceeding glad. For, I read in these ^{items} signed, that the day so long delayed is beginning to dawn, and daily the skies grow brighter, with hope that our troubles are fast approaching a solution favorable to the cause of justice and humanity; and ~~will~~ soon ~~burst~~ the sun will burst upon us in all its resplendent glory, and shine for ages to come over a land of freedom for all men, of whatever color, bond or free.

It was with deep regret that I read of the loss of Cousin Ellsworth Luce, and his brother-in-law. I do sincerely sympathize with his poor wife. It must indeed have been a dreadful blow to her. By such dispensations of Providence as this, we are forcibly reminded of the uncertainty of all earthly things. I begin to think that a person is about as safe in one place as another. Can't tell what will happen.

Holmes' Hole does indeed seem fated in the loss of so many of their young men.

I should really like to see darling little Gracie, and hear her. Your recital of her many sayings excite my curiosity very much. Practical demonstration, ha! ha! ha! Pretty good, I declare. I calculate, the reason she is so extraordinary bright, can be accounted for easily, from the fact that she is so "nearly" related to her "Uncle Charlie". Little egotistical, am I not? But I leave it to you to decide, if I hadn't ought to be pardoned for the egotism, when I was always reckoned so remarkably "right smart".__

Well, sis, this letter has been written by candle-light, and I think I have given you quite a lengthy epistle, considering the circumstances. It is a dark, rainy night, wind blowing almost a gale from the N.E. and it is ^{is al}most time for "tattoo" so I shall have to close. Paper is coming out scant pattern too. Love to everybody, yourself coming in for a good "lay," as well as some "bolus" money. A.B. Quotation from G. Washington Paine, No. 1, Slaughter House Lane. I am well, hope you are better. Your Brother, Charlie Mac is the subscriber to this document.

Page 1
Folly Island, S.C.
Dec. 20, 1863

Dear Mother:-

The mail leaves here to-morrow morning, and I suppose I ought to write a few lines to let you know how I progress. ___ It is pretty cold this evening, and ^{my} hands are so stiff I can hardly write at all. Dare not attempt to use a pen, so write with a pencil this time. Would not write at all while it is so cold, if I did not think you would be anxious to hear from you absent son.

Well, my dear mother, my health still continues to be tip-top. I weigh more this winter than I did last year at this time, by say three or four-score pounds. That you may

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bet high upon. I turn the scales readily at 159 lbs. avoirdupois, my appetite is tip-top. I can eat like a shark, I tell you. Well, so far so good. For the last two or three days, the cold has been quite severe. You see we feel it in our cotton houses, rather more sensibly than in houses of wood. We have not been able to get a stove yet but are in hopes to soon. However, we are a tough set, and can stand almost any weather now. _

I am employed the most of my time now, in writing, either for the Quarter Master or Capt.

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Danforth. I like it very well, I get rid of a good deal of fatigue duty but this means, and it is rather more agreeable to set in a tent with a good fire with a pen in my hand, than it would be out doors with a shovel or axe, cutting and digging. Capt. told me the other day he had got writing enough to last me a month. Bully for him, I say.

I visited Lieut Mussey again this afternoon and had a very pleasant chat. He is close by our camp now _ only about a half mile.

The steamer got in at the Landing to-day with the

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mail, but we have not got it yet, expect to to-night or in the morning. Am expecting a good letter from some "on ye".

You asked me the other day if Wm. Brandon Mayhew was the only Vineyarder in the Regiment. He is only one that I know of except your hopeful. Poor Mayhew is quite unwell, and has been rather slim for a long time. He is going to the Hospital to-morrow, and I think he will pick up there. I earnestly hope so. He said he had not written home for a long time, and wished I would say something in my letter home. So that

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His folks could get some word of how he was. Please tell some of the Newtowners when they come jogging down. I don't consider him very dangerously sick, and honestly think that he will soon be well if he goes to the Hospital where he will have excellent care. He

Pages missing in original

IQP/MQP SCANNING PROJECT



**George C. Gordon Library
WORCESTER POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE**

1

Camp 40th Mass. Vols. Inf^y.
Folly Island S.C.
January 10, 1864

Dear sister:-

Undoubtedly you have all become somewhat anxious to hear from me. A much longer time than I generally allow has passed by since I wrote to any of you. The reasons for this conduct are as follows:- In the first place, we have had very cool weather for this climate, so say those who ought to know. The next reason is because I have been very busily employed in writing for the Quartermaster and Capt. Danforth, and have a good lot more to write before I finish the work. My time you will perceive by the above statement has been busily occupied, and about the only time I have had has been in

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the evening, and it has not been very comfortable for one to write much with one's fingers so cold I could hardly hold on to the pen.

My health continues on in the same agreeable way as usual for the last four months. It is excellent. I could not in reason ask for any better. I am hearty and fleshy, and as a natural consequence am contented and in tip-top spirits. I have great reasons to be thankful that such is the case. A contented mind is an invaluable possession, especially for a person in the army. I calculate that there are but few if any in our Reg't that are better contented than I am. Of course there are many things occurring every day that are unpleasant, but for all that, a fellow gets "used of it," as an

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"eel gets used to being skinned".

Time slides away pretty fast and I will venture to say that I realize as little as you do at home the deprivation of its many comforts. I cannot truthfully and conscientiously assert that I regret the act of volunteering for the cause of my beloved country. The 40th has been extremely fortunate in keeping out of the fighting, and I will say that I hope she may continue on in the good cause. I do not crave to get into a battle, but am determined never to shrink from my duty if called upon so to do. I intend to do the best I know how, and leave the issue in the hands of the Good Being who rules the destinies ^{of} mankind as he "deemeth best". I sincerely hope that ere the close of 1864, I shall be

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permitted to call around by our house and come in partake of some of the good things you usually keep. Fish and potatoes wouldn't be bad to take in the absence of anything else. They would be peculiarly acceptable, if I should chance to have an idea of running the press" __ I wrote a few lines to mother the other night just to let you know that I was still in the land of the living and trust she will receive it.

My long expected box has not yet arrived, but I am looking for it hourly. The express boxes for the Regiment arrived at the Landing yesterday, but have not reached

camp yet, and I hope mine will be with them. They come very irregular, sometimes being two months on the route, but generally get along at last. Mine has al-

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ready been on the road over a month.

We have had some pretty cool weather lately, have seen some ice, but no snow. It seems kind of singular to be out here where there is no snow. It is quite cool now, and I am writing in my tent without a fire, so you must excuse all irregular penmanship.

Capt. Frank Smith I learn is close by here, but I have been unable to find a chance to see him yet. Shall get one if possible. I saw Thomas Fisher the other day, and he said Capt. Smith wanted to see me very much. The Marblehead gunboat that Tom is in had quite a tussle with the Rebs on Christmas Morning, an account of which, taken from the New South I will send you. Tom is all right.

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I wrote to some of you a description of our Christmas dinner. It was the best meal I have had in the army, and we all enjoyed it muchly.

That was a horrid affair at Holmes Hole. Who do they think was the author of the act. I see by a late paper that they have discharged the first ones they arrested. I can imagine that there is a great deal of excitement on the island about it. I hope the perpetrators of the crime will speedily be brought to justice.

I suppose they have begun to draft at home by this time. I wonder if Frank has got caught in the trap this time. I hope not, because I don't want a conscript from the house of Gifford.

When does Aunt Mary expect

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Uncle Ben home? Is it not most time to begin to look for him? Give her my love.

Tell little Gracie I want to see her awfully. I want to come home and have her a "practical demonstration" of the love I bear for her. She must be very cunning judging from your letters. Well I'm kinder in hopes this ere was is about gin out so I can come. It seems to me it is playing out pretty fast, but don't allow myself to rely on a speedy termination. Have made up my mind to be contented if I have to remain here till September, 1865. Quite a long ways ahead, but time slips away pretty rapidly. I have now been in the service over sixteen months, and come to look back it does not seem a great while since I left home.

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Well, I reckon, I have had some pretty tough experiences in that time, and I ever get home, I shall have enough to talk about for one sweat. I sometimes seem to see myself seated in the old Washroom, leaning back in my chair with my "heels on a line" on the mantel piece, "toes equally turned out" "eyes square to the front". Spinning yarns. I am bound to believe that this picture will become a reality sooner or later. So mote it be. I say, so mote it be, I hear you all echo.

Well sis, I must close. Love to everybody that wants it. If you can't give any away, why just keep it yourself. I trust you can duly appreciate the hearty love of your affectionate brother Charlie Mac.

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Later News

Sunday evening. I have the honor to report the safe arrival of the long looked for box; and contrary to my expectations found everything in splendid order. The eatables were not damaged in the least, except for a few of the cookies. "They had moulded a little. Not enough to hurt them much. I am greatly pleased with everything in it, and have to say that I heartily and sincerely thank the contributors to the box for their generosity, and accept them kindly. It is pleasant to be thus remembered by those we have left at home. However small and seemingly insignificant they may appear to those who many times contribute, it shows the willingness of kind friends to do all

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in their power to cheer those who have left comfortable homes, loved friends, and all that is dear to them on earth, to come out here and suffer the untold privations of a soldier's life, to endeavor to uphold the principles of free government, so rudely and unjustly assailed by ruthless and unprincipled demagogues of the South. – I tell you sister, I cannot command words sufficiently strong to express my indignation, when I think of the sorrow and desolation all over our once beautiful and happy land caused by a few scheming, mercenary knaves. Is it not a righteous indignation? And shall they not be visited with the punishment they so richly merit? Their days are numbered, I believe

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and I believe that a just God will rule as he deemeth best and in his own good time will bring order out of chaos, and restore this nation to peace and prosperity once more.

Please express my thanks to all the dear friends, and tell them, I trust they are duly appreciated by me.

I found the little box from you directed to Capt. Danforth, and have just carried it up to him. He was very much pleased with it, and laughed all over his face. He opened it while I was there, said it looked very nice, and wished me to tender you his compliments and say that he was greatly obliged to you. I am very glad you sent it, for the Capt. has always treated me very

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kindly since I have been under his command.

Well, sis, it is getting very near time for roll call and I must close for this time. I guess I have done pretty well for this time. Love to all. Shall endeavor to write again soon. If you don't hear from me quite as often for a time, don't be worried, because I am so busy I can hardly find time to write now. Have not got through at the Capt.'s yet. After writing all day, a fellow don't feel like doing much in the evening in the cold.

A pleasant good night dear sister, is the wish of your absent brother
Charlie Mac.

Hilton Head S.C.
Jan'y 21st 1864

Dearest Father –

I have scarcely time to write anything at all tonight, but when I came to consider that small favors are generally thankfully received, thought I would say just one word as Dr. Mayberry says. I wrote quite a letter to Frank last night because I thought the mail was going North to-day, but I was mistaken as the Fulton does not leave until to-morrow, and so could give you one days later news. My health continues to be pretty good, have not fairly got over the changes from Folly Island yet. Shall be all right soon. Yesterday and to-day have been warm and sunny. The birds have been singing and it really put me in mind of the Spring time at home. If we had such weather North, you would think of ploughing soon. Beautiful herring weather, I tell you. I suppose the snow is knee deep or more at home, but that is an article or substance I have not seen here this winter, In fact I can hardly realize that it is winter.

The boys are full of business and all you can hear is horse, Hoorse, Horse, resounding through the camp. I have not yet got my horse, and when I do I shall try hard not to get my neck broke. I am not entirely green in that line, but cannot consider myself an accomplished horseman yet. Think I can do as well as a great many of them officers included. We are all raw recruits and Colonel Henry (long life to him) has got some hard work before him to train us. – It seems to me that I shall like the business pretty well after I (^{^get}) broke in, and Providence permitting your red head will probably return a “bold cavalier”

Permit me to inform you that I am about hard up, only ten cents in my wallet, and I very much want to get it replenished. The change from our branch of service to cavalry will render a great many little things not furnished by government indispensable to our comfort, and to tell the truth I want something a little different than army rations for my tooth occasionally, and if I do not have the wherewithal to purchase why I can't have it. – I have a good chance here to get some pictures taken (the first good opportunity since last winter) and I know you want to see how I look. – We shall not probably receive any money from Uncle Sam for two or three months to come, as the Paymaster is out of funds and can get no more for the present. So you see how I am. Take pity on suffering humanity and forward about a V. as soon as possible because I need it. If that ain't a pathetic appeal, why I shall have to give it up. I should not be afraid to ask that amount as a “venture.” Well father, I have got to close, not because I want to but for want of time. Love to all. Pleas send as soon as possible. – Direct to Hilton Head 40th Mass, as usual. In haste.

Your loving son Charlie Mac.

Camp 40th Mass. Mtd. Inftry.
Hilton Head, S.C.
Jany 29, 1864

Dear Brother:-

The mail arrived to-day, and I received a letter and paper from you for which I was extremely grateful. Also a letter from father that was hailed with delight I assure you. It was a good long one, and I trust I duly appreciate the favor. I know that he is not accustomed to writing.

We are very busy here now. Every man has a horse, and some of them two to take care of. This is no small job. They have to be cleaned twice a day, fed four times, twice each with oats and hay, and drills twice a day occupies the major portion of a fellow's time, I can assure you. All the time a fellow has to do anything in, is in the evening, and our candles are so nigh played out there is no fun in it, and no sutler here yet to get them from, so I have got to write like all possessed to get even this small sheet full before it fails me and leaves me in total darkness. This must be my excuse for scribbling this affair. I don't know when the mail will leave, but must say a word to-night, so as to be sure of hitting the mail.

My health is bully, and so far I like Mounted Infantry well. We shall soon be Cavalry I suppose. Our Company have all turned in our Springfield's and taken Sharp's Breech Loading Carbines, & and they are a handy little piece I can tell you. Wen we get our Sabres and revolvers we shall be pretty well armed I'll bet. I am slightly "tail-sick" just now, from the effects of riding. Shall soon get toughened to it, I guess. –

I was ~~somewhat~~ much surprised to learn by your letter what you wrote about sister. I don't know but what it is a good thing. If she thinks she can live happily, I say go in. I think from all I ever heard about the man that he is a fine ~~man~~ and would treat her kindly. He is in comfortable circumstances, I suppose, and Ellen would have an easy time of it. She certainly deserves it if ever any woman did, for if she has not had trials enough to tag one from mortal, why I'll stand denied. Give her my love, and tell her I wish her much joy. I love her as well as mortal can and I do want her to have some comfort in this life if possible. – Light's failing me, and as a consequence I shall have to close. Give my love to all the folks and say that I shall write more as soon as I can obtain time and light.

I know you will excuse this apology for a letter, for it can not justly be deemed a letter of interest, and believe me if circumstances were different should be different.

Tattoo-
Good night,
Charlie Mac.

A little later. Jany 30.

111 A.M.—Have just come in from drill, and have about a half hour to do as I can in. The mail leaves here this afternoon at 4 P.M. and I must add a few words more. The weather here is lovely and as warm as May. Mosquitoes, flies, birds, and snakes are to be seen, heard, and felt in the day time. It really seems more like spring than the latter part of January. I am seated out beside my tent with a small piece of wood for a seat, and with my cap off – and coat unbuttoned and a little too warm of anything at that. We had a very good drill this forenoon, and are getting along finely, considering that the horses and men are both green, at the business. Our Carbines are bully little things I tell you. The way our company come to have them I will relate the Colonel had but sixty-three all he could obtain in the Department for two or three weeks or a month about enough for one company, and he took the following method to give them out so as to have fair play among the companies in order that there should be favoritism shown. One man was selected from each company to fire at a target and the man who made the best shot his company should have the carbines. Of course they all chose their best shot. The fellow from our company was named Sanford A. Sisson, a Somerset fellow, and he is a good shot I tell you. He made the best shot so “D” Company took the Carbines, quite an excitement I tell you ~~the~~ when they were firing, but old D gave the cheers when we found we were victorious. They are “Sharps” improved pattern of 1863. Breech loading. They are about three feet long, and don’t quite come up to my hip when at an “order.”—

What we shall do when we get sufficiently drilled I am sure I cannot tell, and it don’t worry me much any way. We shall probably have some scouting to do.

Well brother Frank I have got to wind up this worsted and close for this time, very soon. I want to hear from you often, and I shall endeavor to do the same by you, Love to all. I have some six or eight letters now that should be answered but when you I shall find time to write I don’t know. If you hear any complaints from my correspondents, be kind enough to enlighten them with the reason, and assure them that the first opportunity will be important. “I am” as “thou art” a brother surnamed.

Charlie Mac
Shall write to father soon
C.M.V.

Transport Steamer Neptune
Hilton Head, S.C.
Feb 5, 1864

Dear Mother.

We are on board of transports bound for some point as yet unknown to us, but probably for some place in Florida. Some fifteen or twenty transports are with us. I am well. Have no time to say but these few words. Shall give you details as soon as possible after arriving at our destination. All in good spirits. Love to all.

Mail is going ashore last chance.

Your son

Charlie Mac.

(Direct to Hilton Head as usual)

Barber's Plantation, Florida,
Feb'y 18th 1864

For the House of Gifford & friends thereof:-

Undoubtedly you have been somewhat anxious about me on account of the long time that has elapsed since I wrote to you. Well, I have had no time to write since I arrived in Florida, for we have been in active service about all the time, both night and day for a fortnight. We have been raiding all through Florida and have ridden about 300 miles in this time, have had two skirmishes, with a slight loss on our side. One man in our Company has been wounded in the arm but not seriously, one Sergeant Conklin of Arbo. Was killed. We are now encamped close by the scene of our first skirmish. The loss on our side was three killed and about ten or twelve wounded. – We captured several prisoners, a lot of horses, equipment & c. and the rebels loss fully equalled our own killed and wounded. We drove the rascals & they skedaddled doublequick. The mail is going away immediately and consequently, I have got to say my say very quickly. – I wish I had time to give you a detailed account of our proceeding, but shall have to forgo that pleasure until some future time. - Have just learned that the mail will not leave for several hours yet, so will say what I can as I find time.

Jacksonville, Florida. Feby 22^d, 1864

Dear ~~father~~ Brother Frank.

Here I am once more in the once prosperous and happy place of Florida. Since I last write, circumstances have occurred that are extremely unpleasant. Then everything was going on smoothly and a continual success and ease with which we were proceeding through the country, has suffered a complete reverse + we were obliged to retreat here in double quick time. Feby 20th our forces started from Barbour's Plantation en route for Lake City. When about fourteen miles out we found the enemy in strong force, estimated by good judges at 20,000 and after a severe fight of about three hours we were compelled to fall back, pretty lively too, with a loss of some 600 or 700 on our side and five pieces of artillery. It was a complete defeat, the rebs having everything their own way. The 1st North Carolina, 1st South Carolina 54th Mass, 8th U.S. all colored, suffered heavily, losing over one half of the no. of men engaged the 47th 48th 115th New York, 7th New Hampshire, 7th Connecticut also lost heavily.

The 40th Mass lost about thirty. Col. Harry had his horse shot from under him. Lieut. Elder & Lieut. C.B. Leashe received a severe wound in the arm fracturing the bone. Co. D. did not lose a man.

I was not in the battle. I was unwell and was left in camp with one other man from our company. Consequently I missed the fun of being a target for the rebs. I am not very sorry I was not there, but would like to have been on some accounts. The regiment is still at the front, looking out for the Johnnies. I am here in Jacksonville, waiting for a new horse, my old one being completely played out, and is placed on the retired list for the present. As soon as I get a new horse shall go out and join them. I am considerable better now and will soon be all right. I have been afflicted with the same disease that "poor Price had at the battle of Boonesville Mo. – You recollect what Prentice of the Louisville Journal said in regard to him. ~~Fo~~ During the last fortnight our Regt. Has rode about four hundred miles had two severe skirmishes and one battle of no inconsiderable size. Old veterans say they never ~~new~~ heard a heavier fire for the number of troops engaged in their lives. – The Johnnies were too much for us, and whipped us fairly. What they intend to do now I do not know, but think they will start again as soon as we get our forces rested once more. I tell you what it is Frank we have had a hard one. Had to depend on the country for subsistence for both men and horses, and as a natural consequence have gone hungry sometimes. – I guess I have lost a dozen pounds since I came here. We have not averaged over four hours sleep in twenty-four for a fortnight and that you know is kind of wearing a fellow out. We have not got mounted men enough and for that reason what we have got have an awful sight of hard duty to do. I expect the Johnnies will crow over this affair terribly, and I don't blame them if they do. Seymour did not make much out of it redounding to his credit, but on the other hand, has lost the confidence of the whole command.

Since I arrived in Jacksonville I have been amongst friends. Have seen Lieut. Mussey, Lieut Sweet, Provost Marshal of this place, Tom Fisher of the Pawnee. And last evening the Monohansett was in and I spent a very pleasant evening aboard of her. Charlie Smith is one of the most free hearted man I ever saw, and if I ever have an opportunity to favor him I shall do it you may ask. He asked me if there was anything I wanted that he had, if there was I should have it. He gave a jack knife and a good pipe,

and a lot of cookies &c and I came off rejoicing. The boys are all well that I have seen. Hebe Butler is here on the Water Witch, and I am hopes to see him every minute. Thomas Fisher told me he would let him know I was ashore here if possible.

It is enough to make a fellow heartsick to see the poor cripples hobbling around here, and I cannot feel too thankful that I am still alive and unhurt. Arms, legs, head, body, &c maimed and hit, are to be seen here. The poor fellows as a general thing, are cheerful and talk as lively as ever.

Give my respects to all the friends. I have time to write much now. I received the letter from father containing the five dollars, and I tell you it works in to a charm now. Don't know how I should fare without ~~out~~ it. We have had hard tack and bacon and that is about all for a fortnight and a few fresh things work in admirably now.

You will probably get papers with a detailed account of this expedition, if you do send them out to me after you read them. Because he have no opportunity to get them here.

One thing is pretty certain we have got to have more troops out here before we can do anything successfully. I think the object of the expedition is, to get in the rear of Charleston and Savannah, and break up the railroad communication with the interior. We want 30,000 men for that purpose and we have not one third that number yet.

Well I must say goodbye for the present. Will write every chance I can get, but for the present my letters will probably be brief and poorly written. Excuse all the imperfections.

Your Brother Charlie Mac.

Jacksonville, Florida
March 1st 1864

Dear Father,

I still remain at Jacksonville, not having got a horse yet, and don't know when I shall. I am in no particular hurry to get out to the Regiment as long as they have such hard duty as they now do. They are on picket so often that some of the boys have to be on two days in succession.—Forty-eight hours without scarce any sleep is rather too much for them, after having done all the hard work for the last three weeks. But you see we have not Cavalry force except the 40th & 1st Batt. Mass Cavalry not over 600 men in all, and we have a line of pickets some twelve or fifteen miles in length, and it takes some men to form that line.

We are expecting reinforcements of mounted men every day, but they are right on hand, and are bound not to let the reputation of the 40th suffer any neglect of theirs, even at the sacrifice of their lives. There is picket firing nearly every day. Instances of personal bravery have been numerous and some of our boys have distinguished themselves. One young fellow, a boy merely, of Company K by the name of Wentworth, was on a picket post all alone when four Rebs came up and attempted to make him prisoner. He halted them but they did not heed his order. He then brought his carbine up and give them the contents. He hit one and the other three came on. He drew his pistol and at the first fire they turned tail and run. Certainly they were a cowardly set. Four to one and went off flying, two of them with a dose of blue pills. They promoted him to corporal.

To-day is the first day of spring and it is uncomfortably warm here at mid-day in the sun. Garden fruit is quite plenty, and commands good prices. New turnips, 10^c each, Parsnip 15^c, cabbages 30^c, beets 10^c, &^c I had a good mess of them Sunday afternoon.

We boiled some pork and these vegetables, and had a regular "blow out." It was the first "boiled dinner" I have had for a longtime.

We have just heard from the Regt. or rather "the Light Brigade" as our mounted force is designated, and they have had a skirmish to-day—with a loss of three or four wounded on our side, but non from D. Co.—Have not heard what the loss of the enemy is. Probably as much as our own.—

My health is pretty good but I am troubled with the piles some at times. I am in hopes I shall be free from them soon, for it is rather uncomfortable riding with the compounded things. Separate from that, I am in good health. I see Lieut.'s Mussey & Sweet nearly every day and occasionally Tom Fisher and Ben Ripley. It makes it much more pleasanter for me being among friends so.—Give my love to all concerned in my welfare, and assure them that I still remain true blue for the Union, Stars & Stripes, and our country now and forever, one and inseparable, and stand ready to defend it to the best of my ability.—I hope to see you all about Sept. 1865, and sooner if the war is ended. And I can live in a land of peace. Save an extra ration of love for yourself, and believe me. Your son Charlie Mac.

Jacksonville, Florida
March 3^d, 1864

Dear Father:-

I have a few moments at my disposal just now, and thought I would improve them by sending a few lines more, not having yet mailed my note of the 1st. I am seated in Lieut. Mussey's office while writing this. My health is still pretty good, but the hot weather takes hold of me some, and makes a fellow feel kind of stupid. – I have been helping Mussey for a day or two with his accounts, having found a little time for that purpose. He treats me first-rate, and is as clever a fellow as I wish to fall in with. He has been very friendly toward me, and I trust I duly appreciate the favors shown me. – Have not time to say much. –

The Rebs are within about three miles ^{out} of the town in strong force, but I hardly think they will make an attempt to drive us, at present to say the least. They have got to have a strong force to dislodge us from this place. – Skirmishing is carried on daily by scouting parties and pickets with loss on both sides. – Company A. ~~lost~~ had a sergeant and four men taken prisoners day before yesterday.

The mail arrived there yesterday but I did not receive any letters. Had a couple of papers from Allen Weeks and that was all.

I am going to dine with Lieut. M. to-day and it is nearly dinner time. Anticipate having a pleasant meal. --- Think of me as having a feast.

Love to all. –
Your son –
in haste
Charlie Mac.

Florida Rail Road, near Jacksonville
Express Cav. Headquarters
Commissary Dept. Light Brigade
March 7th, 1864

Dear Mother:-

I have endeavored in the above to give you some idea of my whereabouts, and if I am not explicit enough in regard to the same, just let me know, and I will try to do better next time.

The day is warm, as a May-day, and is just about the right kind of a climate for me. The temperature is seems to just about suit my constitution. My health is pretty good. The only thing that troubles me much is a disease that relates ^{to} or is intimately connected with my posterior, or "seat of honor," vulgarly called "piles". They have not yet been so serious as to incapacitate me from the ordinary duties of a soldier's life, but would have done so, I fear, if my line of business at present rendered it necessary for me to suffer much riding. – Fortunately for me, I have the continual and harassing wear and tear of the saddle. – For about a week past I have been on business connected with the Quarter Master's Department, having been detailed for a short time only, I anticipate and am now seated in the car in which we bring our supplies for the Light Brigade. I sleep aboard the car, having no horse to bother with. We are already in case of an attack to take the "first train" for Jacksonville, with an "Iron Horse" for our leader. Duties are very light now. Have had but very little writing to do yet. It is a good thing for me now, and I trust it will continue so for some little time. Casterbrook, our Q.M. Sergeant, is still at Hilton Head, in charge of our old camp, and will probably remain for a month to come. I shall probably have this place until he returns, and perhaps longer, as Lieut. Underhill, our Q.M. is now A.H.Q.M of the Light Brigade commanded by Col. Henry.

Well dear mother, - I begin to feel a little encouraged at the prospect of getting home some time or other. ~~Have less~~ Over one half of our term of service has expired as you are probably aware. For I have no doubt but what the account of time of my length of absence is as accurately kept by you as by me. I now feel that I am on the "home stretch," as they say use the expression in horse racing, and if I succeed in reaching the place I started from Aug. 29, 1862 without being "ringboned" spaired (sic) or having the heaves, I shall consider myself truly fortunate, and trust I shall duly appreciate the idea. – You can see the effects of being so intimately connected with a horse. I have begun to use "jockey" talk to illustrate my ideas with.

Since the battle of Oluskee, accounts of which you have probably read or heard read, our forces have been busily occupied in fortifying Jacksonville, and the Light Brigade has been kept out, performing all the outpost duty. The duty has been extremely hard, but since the men have been so near Jacksonville, they have fared extremely well, having beside our full rations a lot of potatoes, onions, pickles and curd cabbage – a present from the U.S. Sanitary Commission. I entertain a very favorable opinion of this ~~innocuous~~ ~~ami~~ Commission. It is certainly an institution that deserves the endeavors and earnest efforts of the loyal North to maintain, and never suffer its power for doing good to become finished or limited by any fault of theirs. The aid rendered to the poor wounded, after the ~~last fight~~ battle of Oluskee, was enough to repay any sacrifice that may have been made by Northern Ladies, and I think they would have felt the same way,

if they could ^{have} seen for their own personal satisfaction the same that I am personally cognizant of.

Lieutenants Mussey and Sweet, Ben Ripley of the Ottawa, Thomas Fisher of the Pawnee, are all well. You can inform their friends of the fact should they make inquiries, and if you ^{are} so disposed, you needn't wait for them to ask you. I don't want to place you under any unjust or unnecessary restrictions you see, because in the first place it wouldn't seem exactly right for me to assume to dictate my parents, and in the second place, I have no such desire or inclination "within my bosom lodged". = To Lieut Mussey, I am under great obligations. He has treated me like a brother rather than as the comparative stranger, that I was at home to him, as I would at home, and any favor that I wished that it was in his power to grant, he would esteem it a pleasure to do. – Says he "Charlie if you are ever out of money, and wish some, don't hesitate to ask me," for you shall have it if I have it". He is certainly very kind, and if he ever comes home, as he tells me he expects to do soon, I know you will all treat him well for my sake. The members of the Mass. Cavalry, of which he was formerly a member, all speak very highly of him, and say he is a fine man. – I made inquiries of them for my personal satisfaction, and was well satisfied with their answers. – I am satisfied that many of the plying efforts in relation to his character were false, for if a man has any bad qualities inherit in his nature, if a life in the army does not develop them, why, then, nothing will. – In the last letter I had from father, he expressed himself as strongly interested in the "color of the head that was once read red". When I wrote to him, I was in such a hurry that I forgot to mention anything in relation to it. But now that he may be satisfied with an "ocular demonstration" of the color, I enclose a small bunch of "sorrel," having lately had my hair cut. I have written quite a letter this time, I think, and so you must excuse me from penning anything more "ish time". In almost every letter I have sent home, I have told you how much I loved you, and if you don't believe it by this time, why I take it for granted that anything further said on the subject will be but "wasted sweetness on the desert air". Good afternoon, Mother.

Your son _ Charlie Mac.

March 9th, 1864

Nothing of importance to say, only that I am alive, and ticking, in fact feeling pretty well this lovely morning. The forest all around us is literally alive with birds, singing away as merrily as though they were far away from scenes of war, and its accompanying train of desolation and woe.

The Rebels are pretty quiet now, only occasionally are shots exchanged between the pickets. Flags of truce are going from our lines to the Rebs and vice versa. __

Everything is going on smoothly and I am in hopes we shall be more successful if another attempt should be made to advance on the enemy. _ Am in good spirits.

Charlie Mac.

Jacksonville
March 16, 1864

Fred:

Your brother Charlie is alive, well, and hearty. Have not had a letter from home for four weeks. Are you dead or alive. No time to write much. Inform the friends that I am in good fighting trim.

Charlie Mac.

Camp Light Brigade
Near Jacksonville, Fla.
March 17th 1864

Dear Brother:--

The mail arrived in camp last evening just after "tattoo" and much to my joy contained a letter from you, also papers from you Capt. Smith and the Gazette of March 4th in which I had the pleasure of seeing myself reported all right.

Your letter was the first one I have received from home for a four long weeks, and I assure you that I was much rejoiced to get it. I can imagine the anxiety of my friends at home upon the receipt of such intelligence as was first sent home in regard to the disaster in Florida. It was bad enough at the best, but to have it magnified as the first reports gave it was really too bad. The 40th was reported at Hilton Head as having lost 400 men. We did not have quite that number in the engagement. Our loss was two killed & 29 wounded, most of the wounds were slight, and several of them have not been off duty a day in consequence thereof. We had 34 horses killed in the Regt. One fellow, about my age in K Company had four horses shot from under him during the fight, and came off himself without a hurt.

The forces are not at all demoralized by the defeat, but ask to be led once more against the Johnnies with a proper force—I don't want to see this expedition abandoned, although I don't consider the whole state worth the precious blood that has already been spilled.—The portion of the state that has come under my personal observation (with the exception of Jacksonville) I would not give the "Odd Right" in Trapps Creek for the whole of it.

Personally, I was not in the fight at Oluskee, as I have previously informed you, but have wished that I had been. However, I presume it is all for the best that I was not there, because, I might now have been rotting on Florida's swampy soil, instead of inditing these lines for your edification, instruction, and amusement.—It is very pleasing to me [to] learn that I am so generally remembered by the good people of Edgartown. It rejoices me to know of the interest taken in my welfare, and nerves me to ~~do~~ try and do my duty in such a manner that they may never be ashamed to own me as one who has endeavored to serve his country to the best of his ability. I don't mean to bring reproach on "Martha" by any intentional neglect of duty by her only son and representative now present with the 40th Mounted Infantry.

I saw Lieut.s Mussey and Sweet a day or two since they well and hearty.

When and where the next move will be made I am unable to state with any degree of accuracy. What a forward movement is again contemplated sometime, and that soon, I do not entertain a doubt I shall endeavor to keep you as well posted as possible, but it is not always that I can get a chance when on the move, that you know.

I am having a "soft thing" now, being detailed as clerk for ~~the~~ quartermaster Underhill, for the present. How long it will last, I don't know. I may be ordered to my company any day, and I may remain here for several weeks. It is a good thing if it don't last more "nor a week." Have no picket or guard duty to perform, and they are certainly the most disagreeable duties of a soldier's life. I am pretty busily employed the most of the time, and am kind of stealing time now to write this.—Because the mail is to leave at 4 this afternoon direct for the North, so say the Officials. After lives are always acceptable I presume, ~~when~~ in the absence of anything else.—Basing my opinion from

the programme forwarded by ~~the~~ you, I should judge the performance of the Brother Minstrels might have been quite entertaining.-You almost scare me at your description of Sarah Joy—She must be a bouncer—I have for a long time suspected from what has been written me that she manifested a friendly interest in my behalf. Let her rip. That's all it will amount to you may bet, she is a very agreeable and pleasant correspondent, ~~and~~ although I do not write oftener than once in about three months, and for that reason I do like to write occasionally. "That's all very fine" methinks I hear you utter, but, I suppose "you can't see it" in that light. Well you can guess but I know—I am well and hearty and in pretty good order. Turn the scales quickly at 160 what do you think of that. Pretty fair, aint it. Love to all. Charlie Mac.

(* Transcriber's note: The following portion was written on the side of the page and on the top border)

Tell father the money arrived safely and came in the nick of time. I was almost starved when I reached Jacksonville, but that did me.

Postscript

March 24th, 3 ½ P.M.

Friend Franky Smith

The mail leaves camp at 4 o'clock, for the North, last chance for this steamer. _ I have not had time to write my folks. Please let them know that I am well and in good spirits. Tell them the reason: I thought it would be easier to send a line by you to their effect, than to leave them in total darkness as to my whereabouts. – I shall be obliged to send this letter without a postage stamp being unable to purchase one in Jacksonville. Excuse me. I had a great mind not to send it, but seeing that it was written concludes I would forward to before the news became stale.

Love to all,

Respectfully,

Cha^s Mac. Vincent

Camp 40th Mass. Mtd. Infty.
Jacksonville, Fla.
April 12, 1864

Dear Father:-

It is more than a week since I wrote home, I believe, and now I take the first chance offered to let you know of my welfare. – Have been very busy lately, and have found it almost impossible to write home.

There is no news of special importance to tell you this time, other than that we have orders to move to-morrow. That is no news to us, however. A sudden move has lost all power to frighten us in the least. The fortunes of war cause such movements to be made very often. – All I can learn in regard to the contemplated movement is that we are to cross the river at Jacksonville, go into camp, and probably remain there a few days, and the I suppose we shall have to post of into the country on another raid. This seems to me to be the most plausible explanation of the movements. I shall strive to keep you duly posted as to all our doings of importance, from time to time. – †

I am enjoying most excellent health now, apparently gaining flesh every day. Weighed 162 lbs. yesterday. Probably when it sets in hot, I shall become somewhat reduced from that standard. But I like the idea of having something to sweat on:- The climate is a most delicious one and I see no reason why it should not be healthy. The boys are all stout and healthy, and tough as fine knots. We calculate that we ^{are} almost sure proof against any thing but Rebs Bullets. They fire the things to spitefully, they will penetrate the hide unless it is tougher than “whit leather”.

We hope to hear stirring news from Gen. Grant before soon. Ulysses is a brick, there is no question about that in my mind. – They can't settle the matter to soon to suit me, that's so.

President making seems to be all the go, up North now. The paramount issue of the day is, who shall be our next President. – My preference is decidedly for Old Abe, first. Next Gen. Banks. –

I think that Abe is and would be the first choice of a majority of the soldiers that I am acquainted with. – Gen Fremont, Butler, would do well I think, but, Abe will do better.

Herring I suppose have made their appearance long before this. In fact I believe I had a letter from some of you certifying to that effect. I imagine a corned herring would not be bad to take about his time. Wish I had some.

I had a letter from mother about a week ago, and from Ellen yesterday. I am glad to know that my dear sister is pleasantly situated. I trust that happiness is in store for her. I love my sister, as I know you all do and I really feel rejoiced to know that she is in a fair way to take some comfort. Kind of handy, having a place right on the road to the creeks.

There is such a hubbub around me that I have got to close this letter for this time. - Should be happy to write more, but I believe when a fellow has got nothing to say he had better keep his mouth shut.

Love to all the friends. – I hope I shall be able to come and see you in the old washroom before I am many ~~days~~ ^{labor} years older.

Your son

Charlie Mac.

April 13th Wednesday

P.S. –

The Regiment has broke camp and are getting across the river as fast as the means of transportation will allow. – I remain behind with the Quarter Master's crew. Shall probably join them to-morrow on the other side of the Propohue (?).

It is hot enough to melt a fellow to-day, but we have a good southwest breeze to alleviate the heat in some measure.

I saw Lieut. Sweet pass by here to-day, on his way to the front with a flag of truce. Had no chance to speak with him. – He was just "passing by" you know.

By letter from Ira Darrow, I learn that Elihu Bunker is at home on a furlough. Well that have about all had a spell at it but me, now. Shute, Ellis + Pease discharged. Ripley + Bunker have had furloughs. Poor Smoth + Harrington are sleeping beneath the sod of their native and adopted town, Vincent still remains at his old post, ready to do his duty. – Well, I don't envy Frank Pease his liberty, getting the way he did. If I cannot get out of this service, fairly and squarely, why then I never shall be seen on the island of Martha's Vineyard that you may depend on.

I want to see this thing wound up before I come home. Three years don't seem so long as they did once. Over half the time has expired already, and I trust I shall be spared to see the rest of it and come home in a manner that I shall not be ashamed to hold my head up. And I know that this is your 'pinion' zackly. –

Well, good afternoon father. Long life to you is the earnest wish of yours
Charlie Mac. Varlin.

Direct your letters the same as usual, until you hear from me to the contrary. Send some more stamps, they worth their weight in gold out here, and I have no money, to buy them with. Uncle Sam owes nearly six months pay now.

C.M.V.

Camp 40th Mass. Mtd. Infty.
near Jacksonville, Fla.

Dear Mother:-

It is Sunday evening. The twilight shades are fast deepening, but the friendly rays of the pale, pale moon chases away the darkness that fair would shroud the earth in gloom. It is a lovely evening...just such an one as I should like for a stroll on the bridge.

Great changes have taken place since I left home, as you tell me. Well, I expect it is so. Good Uncle Pease has gone to his long home. I do not believe he had any enemy in the town.

I understand it has been quite sickly on Edgartown the past winter. But I find by referring to the paper, that the mortality is principally among the old folks. – I had a letter from father this morning of date April 6, and I assure you I was glad to hear from you. A letter from father is a treat to me, for several reasons. – One is they come so seldom but I don't meant to complain for he has done remarkably well, I think, when I come to consider how hard it is for him to write. Another reason is, he always writes so cheerful, that it does a fellow good for a long time after reading.

I also feel very thankful to hear from you so often. I assure you, that your letters are highly prized, because I know that what you say comes from the heart. Well, temptations are many in the army to commit sin, but I trust I do not yield to many of them. I strive to do right. – Drinking, gambling or swearing, I keep aloof from, and I think no one will dare accuse me of any of these enormities. The use of tobacco I have become somewhat addicted to, but that you know I learned before I came out here. This is not a crime, but may with propriety I suppose be considered a bad habit. However, I must say that it has been of no disadvantage to me¹ I think. One thing is certain. I never enjoyed better health than I do at the present time, and never weighed so heavy. I weigh 162 avoirdupois, easy. That is 20 lbs. more than when I came away from home. I don't think I have grown any in height length, but am considerably thicker set. I have a splendid appetite, and fare better now, than the average of the privates in the army. –

I still remain with the quartermaster and am having pretty busy times writing. Have scarcely time to pen a note home. Well, as long as I write you often enough to let you know that I still live, it is all right I suppose. If my supposition is^{not} correct, why I will make it all right when I come home.

In all human probability I shall be nearer to home by several hundred miles in less than a month, as we have already received orders to report to Fortress Munroe, and are awaiting transportation. The probabilities are likewise strong that we shall enter the Army of the Potomac again. If the order is not revoked we shall soon be underweigh for the North. We are to leave our horses here, and what disposition will be made of us I don't know. I think, however, that we shall be mounted again upon our arrival North. This is a world of changes, and I know of no place better calculated to convince a person of the

truth of that statement than a life in the army. They seem determined that the 40th shall not lay idle. Work in Virginia, as long as anything can be accomplished there, then send us down South to spend the winter, a very fashionable idea you know and now it will soon be too hot to do anything in this part of the country, so it is "40th Mass," "hyper" again for the North, and seek a more congenial climate. Well, as long as I have my health, I do not care so much about the moves as I otherwise would. – ~~For~~ On some accounts I should like to be in Virginia. It is a great deal nearer home, and if anything happens to me, why you might come out to see a fellow. –

To say that I would like to see you, would be superfluous talk, for you know that as well as I do. – I am seated on a box of hard bread, in the commissary tent, writing by candle light. – Casterbrook, our Q.M. Sg't, is writing to his wife, & Fred Catting a fellow clerk is writing to his friends. = Fred says he is stuck for an idea, and after a sober retrospective view of my stock of knowledge, I am inclined to believe that I am in the same predicament.

Tell Freddie to tell Ira, that I received his letter the other day, and will answer it as soon as possible. - We are having beautiful herring weather out here in Florida. They could not well help running if they were out here. – Ellen's letter was very acceptable. I had but barely sent a letter to her when I got this one. – Gracie, I guess must be a prodigy. I am coming home to see her, as sure as this war is closed. – Love to all. – A good share for yourself.

Your affectionate son Charlie Mac.

Gloucester Point, Virginia
May 2, 1864

My dear Mother:-

As you will perceive by a glance at the caption of this epistle, I am once more on terra firma, if the substance called mud can be termed such. My last letter was written hurriedly at sea off Hatteras, and as I then expected we arrived at Fortress Monroe the same night, just in time to escape a northwest gale. The next morning we were ordered to report here, and arrived in due season, landed late in the afternoon, foreceeded to camp to where I now am.

As soon as we landed we found that we should not be mounted again for the present to say the least, but had got to "frog" it again. To tell the plain truth we had rather than else expected that it would ^{be} so, and our boys love it as well as could be hoped for. We were immediately placed or assigned to a brigade, composed of the 3rd, 89th, 117th, & 142^d New York Vols. commanded by Col. Alford of the 3rd.—

Gloucester Point is exactly opposite Yorktown on the right bank of the river York, and is similar to the rest of Virginia. We are in the old 10th Corps. Nearly all are white troops from the Department of the South, having been sent here. Our Corps is commanded by General Gillmore and we are to form a part of the expedition against Richmond, commanded by Maj. Gen. W.F. Smith, familiarly termed "baldy" Smith, and Gen. Ben Butler's Department. There is a large number of troops in this vicinity on both sides of the river, and it looks as if they meant work this season. I think Richmond has got to cave in this campaign. If we are successful the present summer I can't see how a rebellion can hold out a while longer. But if we are defeated, I look upon it as highly probable that the recruits who have just enlisted for three years will have a chance to serve their time out.

At 8 o'clock Saturday morning the whole Brigade left here and went on board transports, and went up the river early Sunday morning, as I understand for West Point, where we were not quite a year ago. We have not heard from the expedition yet but trust they have effected a landing all right.—

Your don Charlie remains here at the old camp in charge of the property of the quartermaster and ~~have~~ am having what we soldier's call "a soft thing." There ~~are~~^{is} ~~six~~ ~~of~~ is some ten or dozen fellows here, and we are living finely and having easy times. I am to remain here until further orders. If our Regt. lands at West Point and hold it, we shall probably be sent for soon. --I must say that I have been in luck for the last two or three months, that I am sure of a continuance of the same.—As matters are at present, I stand a good sight. Col. Alford is now in command of the division, and Col. Henry commands the Brigade and Jesse (Let. Underhill) is Brigade Q.M. again.—

May 3rd—I was interrupted yesterday by a call to some business. Last night we were visited by a regular tornado, of hail, rain, & wind. I never saw it blow harder in my life. We all got wet through, and had to turn in with wet blankets. However that is nothing new or strange in a soldier's experience for I am all right to-day. I saw the 24th the other day, they having arrived here. Lieut. Sweet has gone home, and you will probably see him before you receive this letter.

On Board Transport Starlight
May 5, 1864

A few lines more to give you the latest intelligence may not come amiss, I am seated for that purpose. Here I am on transport again. I left Gloucester Point May 3^d, and went to West Point, where I remained a day, and last night the whole force was ordered to leave for some new point, and here we are steaming up the James River as fast as possible, en route for Richmond. Shall probably land to-night.

Richmond has got to fall this time. I was satisfied last year that they would not do anything about it until the 40th Mass did it. _ I calculate to be among the first to enter the city if God is willing. _ I shall write to you as often as I can and endeavor to keep you posted as to my whereabouts.

Tell all the friends I am confident of success, and if the Good Being spares my life, I shall inform them of our doings as soon as practicable. _ My health is excellent. I am in good spirits, and bound to see this thing through.

Give my love to all. _ A good portion for yourself, dear mother, is the desire of your

Unworthy son
Mac

I think we shall land at Harrison's Landing from what I can learn in regard to the matter only about twenty miles from the capital of treason. There are troops enough to do it I guess, and I think Grant is just the fellow to put it through in good shape. Vincent

May 6. Morning

This letter is by piecemeal, but perhaps will be the first as welcome as if written all at once. We shall probably land this afternoon if nothing happens to prevent at Harrison's Landing, about 20 miles from Richmond. It is a beautiful day, and we are steaming up the James River in fine style, making slow progress with two schooners in tow.

When we get ashore I hope we shall get a mail. Have not had one yet since we left Florida. I am with a jolly set of boys. One of our clerks, Fred Cutting, of Chelsea, is one of the drollest and dryest specimens of humanity I ever say. He will keep a fellow laughing all the time. He is a tip-top fellow, too. Always good natured and full of frolic.

Well, good morning, friends. I shall write to you ^{as} soon after landing as I can. Love to all.

Your son
Charlie Mac

Noon. May 6. ___ P.S. 4th

We are anchored off City Point, in company with about a hundred transports, and expect to land soon on the south bank of the James River, on the Petersburg side about 12

miles from Richmond. - The Monohansett is lying at anchor close by here, I am going aboard if I can get a chance.

Good noon
Charlie

Bermuda Hundred
James River, Va.
May 11, 1864

My Dhear Paternity

I have about given up the fondly cherished idea of ever hearing from home again not having had a word for a long time, the last communication bearing date of April 10th. We have had but one mail since leaving Florida and that brought no letter for me, but received a Gazette of the 29th ult. However I do not despair, but keep up a lively faint hope for better things in the future.

My last letter home was written on board the transport steamer Starflight some five or six days since and my reason for not writing since I will explain to you by stating that have been anxiously awaiting a letter from some member of the family a sorrel top offshoot of which I am. But man is often doomed to dissapointment in this mundane sphere which we inhabit and it is no more than fair that I should enjoy my portion of such things. The afternoon of the same day on which I closed my last and greatest epistolary effusion, effulgent with brilliant ideas, sound logic, disinterested patriotism, and stubborn indisputable, incontrovertible facts, we effected a landing on the south bank of the James River at this singular named village of Bermuda Hundred and our Regiment immediately proceeded to the front leaving me behind with the Quartermaster property where I have since remained at my ease.

This expedition was a complete surprise to the Johnnies, and was finely performed under the auspices of the redoubtable and indefatigable Ben Butler and his Lieutenants Gillmore of the 10th Corps. And Gen Smith or the 18th. One expedition is a complete success so far. Our forces are between Petersburg & Richmond, destroying the railroads between the points, so as to cut off the egress of Lee's hordes should he attempt to leave Richmond. This has not been accomplished without some pretty hard fighting and some loss of life. But it is a big thing and you have probably heard of the results ere this, so I will not attempt to give you any details. What is next in order on the programme, I am unable to state, and don't want to know until it is done. The 40th has not lost a man yet although they were subjected to a severe "shelling" yesterday. The boys are rather downhearted since we gave up our horses. I dread the terrors of such another campaign as we had last summer. A number of our men have become unfit for marching by this manuevre, whose bravery is unquestioned, that would do well mounted. But the powers that be have decreed that we must frog it, and there is no appeal from their decision in army service. All we can do under existing circumstances therefore, is to hope that we shall get our horses again, although I very much doubt that it will ever bloom a reality.

The news received from Grant so far is favorable, but indecisive, but from what there is already accomplished, I predicate a glorious and decisive victory ere many days. "It thunders all around" and I am inclined to think that Jeff Davis begins to think so by this time. Grant in front of Richmond battering at the front doors. Butler in the rear with the back doors shut up and locked, and our cavalry on each wing to keep them from jumping out of the windows – where can they escape? If Richmond don't fall this time, we must grit our teeth and go at again. Never give up the ship in foul weather that is just the time when our services are the most needed, and to desert then virtually brands us as

cowards. Our forefathers bequeathed us a precious legacy bought with precious blood, and shall we, sons of those patriot sires, be found shrinking to snatch away the precious trust and subvert it to the basest and most inhuman purposes on Gods! Footstool. – No! I say! but with a clean conscience and a strong arm we will

“Strike! till the last armed foe expires;”

“Strike! for our altars and our fires

“Strike! ~~till the~~ for the green graves of our sires

“God and our nation laud!”

“Banging” hot day squire Vincent.” – well it is first that, notwithstanding we have a strong breeze from the southwest. The dust is flying terribly and you will find some of it on this sheet.

The Monohansett has been lying here ever since I came here, and I have been aboard several times, and had a pleasant season. Johny Luce is here also. He came up to see me this forenoon. He is looking well, and seemingly in the best of health. His company are now detailed for engineer duty, such as laying pontoons. & c. I was very glad to see him.

Rumors are ripe that the mails are not allowed to go North at present “so if you don’t get this letter you will know the reason why,” as the Irishman once wrote.

I fondly hope that the present campaign will render the cause of secession so feeble that they will have sense enough to see it and cease to fight. – If they don’t why it will only be the worse for them.-

There is a good deal more I might say on the subject if I was disposed, but I guess you have a “quantam sufficit” for this ebullition. Remember me kindly to all dear friends at home and accept this from.

Your affectionate son Charlie Mac

Camp 40th Mass. Vol. Infty.
Near Bermuda Hundred, Va.
May 20, 1864

Dear brother Freddy:-

I believe I owe you a letter. I received one from you a few weeks ago, containing your picture. I was very much pleased with both the letter and photograph, and should not have known it if you had not told me so. When I first opened the letter, I thought it was Cousin Walter's picture, and could hardly believe that it was my little brother Freddy Hamup. You have grown out of all reason, and you ought to have a stone put on your head pretty soon as big as a hundred of herring, regular "Edwards" at that too, so that you can settle together. _

Yesterday, I came up to camp and am now seated in the woods while writing this letter. The weather is pretty warm. _ Fighting is going on almost constantly. Some wounded men from our Reg't have just come in, having had a heavy skirmish a little while ago. The Rebels charged on our breastworks, and a portion of the 40th was out there holding the pits, and they peppered them sweetly, driving them with great slaughter. Out "seven shooters" are just the things to give 'em fits + we have got just the boys that can use them. I hope everything will turn out all right. Our boys are in good spirits, and bound to see this thing through in good shape. Gen. Grant has done well as far as he has gone but I want to see him push them to the wall. _ Our boys have had a very tough time since we landed here, but have borne up under it in good shape. I have been very fortunate so far in keeping out of it, and have had a very easy time. _

I received two letters from home yesterday, one from mother mailed May 12, and one from Frank of the 15th. _ Those are the only ones I have got since the 10th of April. I suppose there are more back somewhere, and I guess they will turn up all right before long.

I am very glad to hear ^{from} you may bet your ^{best} nights fishing at Trapps Creek, but am sorry to hear that Capt. Vincent is so unwell. Poor Ellen, she has had her full share of sorrow, I should think, and I do earnestly hope that she may be spared the trial of losing another husband. God grant that she may allowed to live happily with him for many years.

Mother writes me that poor Uriah Fisher is dead. Poor fellow. I expected it long ago. When I came away he was very feeble, and he has lived a great deal longer than I anticipated.

While I am writing this they are popping away out to the front in a very lively manner. Only about a mile from here. Our whole Brigade and also Barton's Brigade have gone out to the front, and I should not wonder fi they have pretty lively times before night. The gallant 40th has done good service the past week. _ I could fill a big sheet with their exploits, and I will tell you of one or two. A fellow in Co. C. by the name of Rankin, fought in the pits as long as he could and then commenced to retreat. The Rebs were close on to him, and he run aways

Then turned round and fired on them. He brought down three of them in quick succession and the fourth one by this time had got so nigh to him that he placed the muzzle of his gun right for Rankin's head and fired. Strange to say the ball passed right under his chin, just raising the skin on his throat. Rankin said the gun was so nigh that the powder burnt his face, and quick as thought he clubbed his "Seven Shooter" and gave the Johnny a rap that laid him dead, cracking his skull at the first blow. That's what you can call pluck. And ~~nine~~ many regiments ~~of~~ would have immediately surrendered, had they been placed in similar circumstances, entirely surrounded, they cut their way through with a loss of only about sixty men.

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I might mention one or two more instances of a similar character, but this will give you general idea of the ferocity of the combatants, and the determined manner in which our boys fight.

Of the downfall of rebellion, I do not entertain a doubt. It must cave in before many months. But I am not so sanguine of a speedy close as a great many. It is a desperate struggle, and the pertinacious Johnnies fight like demons, and I believe they never will give up until they are exterminated. It is singular how tenaciously they cling to the idea that they are going to establish their independence. They will have their eyes opened some time or other, ~~and~~ but it has got to be done with powder and cold lead, that's what I think.

I have been here just a fort-

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night and there has been fighting nearly every day since we landed. I hope it will end with victory for the cause of Liberty. Heav, fighting is yet to be done before the goal is reached.

I am sorry to say that the 24th Mass. Has lost pretty heavily. Lieut. Sweet belongs to this Regiment. He is very fortunate, I think, to be away at the present time.

I want very much to see you all, but shall not come until the end of my term of service, if not sooner discharged. I want to see this infernal rebellion crushed, and I trust that my hope will soon be a reality. "Grant" is my hope and I trust he will bring order out of chaos and that before the close of this year.

Well, Freddy, I want you to write me a good long letter, and all the news

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3.P.M. Hard fighting just now. The 40th is suffering pretty severely to-day. Co. D. has two killed and three wounded a few moments ago and are still in it. I hoe that we shall come out all right, in the end, ~~I think~~

Give my love to all the friends especially the female portion of them. How are all the girls. Write me a good long letter with all the news. _

How do you get along with the Gals. I hear you are quite a beau among them.

I shall write as often as I can, and try to keep you all posted.

Accept this from your own Brother.

Charlie Mac

Camp 40th Mass. Vol. Infy.
"In the field," near Bermuda Hundred
May 22, 1864

Dear sister:-

Sometime has elapsed since I have heard from you directly, and I believe you can say the same in regard to myself.

I have heard very much to my sorrow that your husband was somewhat unwell. It grieves me to hear it excessively, although not intimately acquainted with him. I am satisfied from what I hear in regard to him, that he is a fine man and worthy of even the love of my dear and only sister. I sincerely hope that he will recover and be spared to you for many years to come, for I feel assured that should he live you can enjoy yourself.—No one more deeply sympathizes with you, ~~and~~ ^{or} feels a deeper interest in your welfare than your dear brother Charlie, and I fondly desire to cheer you for many years.

Well, sister, since the date of my last to you written, if I mistake not in Florida, we have had some experience "in the field." The 40th Mass. has lost nearly or quite one hundred men killed and wounded.

I have been very fortunate. Have had very easy times. I have not been in any of the battles having been in the rear with the quarter master's property.—Last Friday they had a pretty hard fight, and Co. D lost its first man in battle. The loss of the Co. was two killed and two wounded. The names of the killed were, Edward E. Wade and Robert Kyle.—Wounded, Samuel G. Rand & Edward Martin.—Wade and Kyle were neither instantly killed but died during the day and night. Wade was a young fellow, about my age, a first rate boy, of excellent character, the son of kind parents in the town of Dighton. (His father, I think is a deacon of the Baptist Church in that place. It will be a dreadful blow to his parents. The only satisfaction they will have is to know that he died an honorable death, -a martyr to the cause of liberty. He was shot through the left breast and died while being conveyed to the rear. It became my painful duty to assist in burying him. We buried ~~them~~ him beside the road and I placed a rude head board to his grave to mark his resting place. Kyle was mortally wounded and died the same night. He was a fine fellow, although an Irishman, he was a very quiet man. Martin's wound was in the ~~arm~~ leg and Rand's in the arm, neither seriously.

Sunday, to-day. I believe have to tell by referring to my almanac, however. There is nothing here to indicate the difference between this or any other day-It is a cloudy day, and has rained a little occasionally. I hope it will not rain much because the roads are in ^{an} awful condition now, the mud being so deep that ~~the~~ a four horse team can't carry but about half a ton.—Occasionally a gun is fired from the opposing parties, but they are pretty quiet. The Rebs made a desperate attack on our lines last night, but were repulsed. There was a fierce cannonade for a while, but we only lost four or five men.--Rebel loss unknown, but probably pretty heavy—Friday the 20th we captured a rebel General by the name of Walker, a South Carolinian. He was severely wounded and had his leg amputated by our doctors. He is a savage iccessh, but I guess he will get tamed some before he leaves. Day before yesterday, the back mail from Florida ^{arrived} and I got several letters from various individuals very glad, to get them although a month old

or more. I had a letter from Cousin Walter, and he tells me that Sam Warren has gone to Taunton to work.

Also that he (Walter) expects to go to Providence to school.—Well, sis, I wish I was going to school too, but those days are over. I can hardly realize that I am in my twenty-first year, and the last half of that. Well, time flies, even here in the army. I have been in the service now nearly twenty-one months. I hope I shall be spared for the fifteen to come. Then I contemplate a visit to my native isle, before I decide on my business for the balance of my term of service in the world.

I want to see you all, as you will readily believe, but when I do come, I want to stay as long as I am a mind to. Don't think I shall re-enlist, three years will satisfy me. Though if I thought my services were necessary in the salvation of the nation why I should not withhold them.—

My love to all, your family, particularly little Gracie. She is a darling I know. I prize her picture very highly. Remember me to Capt. Vincent, tell him he has my heartfelt wishes for his speedy recovery.—Respects to all Accept this from your loving brother,

Charlie Mac

Camp 40th Mass. Vols. Infty.
Near Bermuda Hundred, Va.
May 27, 1864

My dear Mother:-

Business of various kinds has kept me constantly employed for a few days past. So much so as to render it a hard matter to find an opportunity to pen even a few lines to friends at home. I propose to write as often as once a week, and as much more as I can. I know you are all anxious to hear and I always endeavor to do the best I can to alleviate and allay those anxious fears.

I should like to hear from home as often as the law allows. I have had but two letters from home since I left the genial clime of temperate Florida.

One from your own dear self, and dated the 11th of May, and one from Frank of the 15th. Have received several papers from home and also from friend Allen S. Weeks, which were very welcome. Last night I got a couple of papers from Frank, but no letter.

Day before yesterday, I had the pleasure of seeing Lieut. Sweet. He came over from his Regt. To see me and gave me the package as you desired. I was very glad to see him and glad to hear that you were all so well. He says Gracie is a cunning one & I believe him. He said you were very anxious to have my come home, well, I don't doubt that either. Well trust I am coming before many months if Gen. Grant is successful in his plans. The news is cheering so far.

Nearer Bermuda Hundred
May 28, 1864

My letter was interrupted yesterday by other business and towards night we commenced to pack up and moved to the rear a few miles where we now lay, momentarily expecting orders to move again. Just where I don't know, but if I may be allowed the Yankees privilege of guessing, I should say that our desires and hopes are soon destined to be "Granted". This is a supposition. A private is not supposed to know much of the affairs of military in ~~fact~~ prospect, but has to be content with the knowledge of things as they transpire from day to day, and it requires a retentive memory backed up by a corroborative statement in mind to remember that.

The glorious and gallant 40th will soon become a nonentity, I fear, if we have to go into more active campaigning right away and I am certain that will there be no rest for us until this campaign is over. Well, we don't want it. We would scorn to be taking rest when our services are so much needed. The 40th I am happy to say prefers a life of glorious activity and hardship instead of inglorious ease. We have but about 150 me for duty in the Regiment. Not two good sized companies. _ I still enjoy excellent health, and I guess I can stand this campaign. Hope so, any way. I have got an easy position now much easier than if I was in the

I do not feel very communicative to-day. My head is in a "muddle" and the ideas refuse to come at my bidding. So you must not expect a lengthy epistle.

I wish I could come and see you. Gen. Grant I trust will arrange matters so that I can before a great many months.

Love to all. _ Have had no letter this week. _ Tell Frank I rejoice to learn that he was not among the elect of Abraham's soldiers. I hope he is all right. I don't blame him

for not wanting to be coerced into it. Hope he will be successful in whatever he undertakes for a living. With the best of wishes for your welfare and happiness. _ I am _

Your dear son
Charlie Mac

White House Landing, Virginia
June 2, 1864

Frank:-

As you will readily perceive by the heading of this note, I have effected a "change of base," since my last communication to the house of Gifford. I write then that there were pretty strong indications that we should move very soon, and sure enough, we did.

A short history of the movement may not be uninteresting to you and the rest, and assuming this I will proceed to give you a few items connected with it. Saturday afternoon about 4 P.M. we were ordered to move and soon were on our way. I went with the teams. Thereby getting my baggage carried and having an easier time generally. _ The orders were for the whole of the 18th Corps and Turner's Division of the Tenth to be in readiness to move. As a matter of course, if there were any troops to be transferred, owing to delays of the train, we were kept up all night. _ We crossed the Appomattox River on a pontoon bridge that was laid by the 13th Co. Mass. Heavy Arty, the company that Johnny Luce belongs to, and from thence proceeded to City Point, arriving there about sunrise and had to await our turn on the transports. About sunset we got ab our teams aboard of an old canal boat and took passage on the same ourselves. We only succeeded in getting the wagons aboard and the horses had to be left for some other transport. The Q. M. Serg't (Kline Easterbrook) staid with them and has not yet arrived here. Commissary Sgt. Buck and myself came one with the wagons.

We did not leave City Point until about 9 o'clock Monday morning. and then we were taken in two by two tugs and started down the James River Besides the "Wauponsa," (our gallant craft). They had another barge and a schooner in tow, so our progress was rather slow down, and we did not reach Fortress Monroe until about sunset or a little after. Here we were ordered to remain, and wait until some other steamer was ready to tow us. Very fortunately for us the canal boats had no anchors, consequently we had to be taken to the wharf to tie up. This gave us a fine opportunity to "bum" in a civilized place. _ We laid here until four o'clock Tuesday afternoon, and during the day we improved out time in taking a cursory view of things in the vicinity. _ We also had the temerity to indulge in a few luxuries not issued by the Commissary Department. We had "ice cream", strawberries, cherries, a good dinner at a saloon, of friend fresh fish, and all that was necessary to make a good dinner, and when I came away, I left with "inward" satisfaction, well pleased with the days liberty. All things must have an end, and our case was no exception to the general rule, for about four or five o'clock the steamer Charleston took us in tow, and we proceeded York River wards. _ The heavy bosom of the never resting ocean caused the canal boats to make a considerable circumbobulation for a while, but we soon got in smooth water, and dropped anchor opposite Yorktown to await daylight before proceeding farther on our journey. While at Fortress Monroe we learned that we were bound to the White House to establish a base of supplies for Grant's Army and reinforce him also, our services being no longer needed by Gen. Butler for his defensive operations. Early Wednesday morning we moved up the York and soon after noon arrived at White House, where I now am. The Regiment has gone to Mechanicsville in company with a majority of the 18th Corps and have probably ere this formed a function with Gen Grant._ Our old Brigade is again broken up and the 188th Pennsylvania

(~~Hundred Days March~~). 92nd New York Vols. 58th Penn. Vols. 21st Connecticut + 40th Massachusetts, now form the Third Brigade, Brooks Division, 18th Army Corps, under the command of Col. Guy N. Henry. Quartermaster Underhill is Brigade Quartermaster, and your brother Charlie Mac is one of Underhill's staff_ (ie| chf. clk.) How does that sound? Keep mum about it however, until my nomination is confirmed. Ha! Ha!_ When I shall go out I do not know, but am awaiting orders. That is plenty hard work enough in this hot weather. It is uncomfortably warm and writing makes a fellow sweat, seated in a shelter tent writing on my knee with nothing but a newspaper for a desk. . It makes rather hard penmanship but I guess you will be able to decipher it. At any rate you can guess at what you are not sure of. _ Things in general look familiar around here. You remember I was here a little over eleven months ago. _ The news we receive from day to-day is cheering and indicates the speedy fall of rebellion. Grant's untiring perseverance and the pertinacity with which he keeps Lee's army "hopping," seems to astonish Lee. He never found his match before, but I think he has found him now. "A foeman worthy his steel". _ We are now in communication direct with the Army of the Potomac and while I am writing I can hear heavy cannonading in the direction of Richmond. Yesterday our cavalry had a severe and bloody fight at Brick Church, only about two and a half miles from the Capitol of Seceshdom and at night we were the victors holding the contested ground unmolested. Our loss was pretty heavy. I regret to say, about 400, I believe but the victory is ours. _ Hospital tents are being erected with all haste, capable of containing 6000 wounded and we have a large number of lady nurses here. Their presence is inspiring and the sigh of them is enough to do a fellow good. A large quantity of stores, the property of the Sanitary and Christian Commissions are here, and a large corps of agents to attend to the proper distribution of the same among the needy ones insures success. All that can be done will be done for the comfort of our wounded. The Christian Commission is all that its name imports as thousands of needy ones will readily testify.

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I have just had the pleasure of seeing a brother of Gen'l Grant who is here and soon to join his brother, in time as he fondly hopes. I suppose (and as we all do) to see him enter Richmond in triumph. He is a citizen, and a quiet, unobtrusive looking man as you will generally see. Looks but little like the representations of his brother Ulysses that I have seen. _

My dear Brother, it seems to me that the present campaign cannot but terminate in our complete success. I feel a confidence in Genl. Grant that I never felt in any other man, and I I (sic) think he is destined to be the Savior of his country. That accomplished and his memory will be revered and enshrined in the heart of his countrymen, as fondly as now is the memory of our beloved "Pater Patrio" the immortal "Washington". _

I know there are chances of his failing, and if he should, I for one

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shall feel assured that he has done all that mortal could ~~not~~ and house deserves ~~then~~ our praise. A

Let the Government relax no exertions to keep the army to its present standard, and spare no time or money for the object, and then we shall be prepared for the worst. If we are successful, the men will not be required but it is not use to wait until we are

defeated before anything is done again. This policy of waiting until the last moment before calling for men has been will nigh fatal to all our hopes, and I trust that the Government has seen the folly of it. _ Let the men respond with alacrity. "A country that is not worth fighting for is not worth living in. And if the Johnnies once gain the ascendancy this country will be but one vast charnel house. God grant that such a picture may never become reality. _ Shall we prove recreant to the sacred trust inherited from our forefathers, who

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fought to establish a land of peace. No! – No! No!- I tell you the sons of those patriot sires are giving the hi to any such insinuations by their actions of the past month. All we want is the support of the bone and sinew of the ~~month~~ North.

I want to see this cursed strife ended, but will never consent while my head is warm to concede one iota to traitors to accomplish it.

Butler made a complete "flunk of his movement. He may be well enough as a military governor, but his qualifications for field operations are limited. _ He has faded like all the rest of the Generals promoted by political influence. I am very sorry for him, and for the cause. Banks, I am very sorry to see, has made a bad move. He was one of my favorites and still is as a man. I wanted to see Nalty Banks in the Presidential Chair but I suppose this move is damaging to his prospects.

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I am anxiously awaiting a mail from home. My letters have been very irregular lately. – The last one I received was from you of date May 15th- There will probably be a mail in soon and I expect a letter. – Hereafter, until further notice, you will please direct my mail to 40th Mass. Vols. 3^d Brig, Brooks Division. 18th A.C. via Fortress Monroe, Va.

I am in good health and spirits as buoyant as a lark. Write early and write often. – Love to all. Tell mother I am ~~well~~ much obliged to her for the present I read, from Lieut. Sweet. His Reg't is still at Bermuda Hundred and will answer as soon as possible. Give my love to all my female friends, and assure them that Charlie Mac is O.K." Again, soon
-Brother-Charlie Mac Vincent

Port Walthall, Virginia

June 17, 1864

Mother

My last correspondance to you directly was from White House about a week ago.- This is indeed a world of change and if the history of the 40th is not proof positive enough to satisfy the most incredulous_ I do not know how they can be satisfied. Soon after I wrote I received orders to come up to the Regiment with the baggage. ~~and~~ Consequently I started with the teams in company with Capt. Elder of the 40th who had been in the hospital sick and was now returning to duty. He is very good company and I got along very pleasantly but had (^an) all nights march of it before we "parked" the wagon train. In the forenoon I went up to the regiment or rather to Lieut. Underhill heqrs. and after loafing a spell came back to where I left the trains ~~and~~ pitched a tent fly in company with two fellow clerks Fred Cutting & Eugene Kelton (Adjutants clerk) expecting to be busily employed on the morrow. A good refreshing nights rest, until the King of day had heralded the dawn of June 11th, brought us a realizing sense of duty to be performed when we were informed that another move was on the tapis. We had barely time to swallow our primitive breakfast of "hard tack and cofee," pack our duds before we were off on the road towards White House. Just at Night we "parked" about three miles from the landing patiently awaiting further developments. About noon Sunday we went to White House. In the evening got our baggage on a canal boat (where it now lies) and on Monday afternoon we started down the Panumkey. While here we found that White House as a base of supplies would be used as such no longer. The 18th Corps ~~was~~ came down on transports and landed on the south side of the Appomatox River and are now menacing Petersburg from this side with a reasonable prospect that ere many days elapse we shall have our Headquarters in said place. I was two days and nights on our voyage, and now we lie at Port Walthall on the south side of the Appomatox awaiting orders. Night before last our boys captured their first line of breastworks, including two forts with 14 pieces of heavy artillery, some 300 or 400 prisoners and our forces are now within plain sight of what we consider our city of Petersburg. I trust we shall not be disapointed in this respect. Everything looks favorable for that end – so say those who ought to know & I suppose they do. – It will be a big thing if they do, that's a fact. Things are mighty "onsartain" as I can not well keep remembering when I ~~rew~~ look over the scenes that are past. I always hope for the best as long as there is any chance to hope.-

I am well although our living at present, can hardly be called living merely staying. I don't consider there is any danger of starving mind you, but will remark that food is rather coarse and not by any means luxurious. I don't mind that however. It is all for my country and I do not begin to suffer what many poor fellows directly in the field have to. I have no cause for complaint but should rather be grateful that I am in health

The weather is awful hot and I feel but little like making a lengthy communication under the circumstances therefore I feel comfortable that you will make all due allowances for uninteresting letters.

You know my will is good enough and in the present case the will for the deed must be satisfactory. You see I talk some what imperatively but you will excuse that

I shall write again so on. Give my love to all the dear ones at home

I have had no news from home of later date than May 28th and that was from Frank. Mails are very irregular a thing easily accounted for when we are moving about from one point to another.

Hope to hear again as soon as I get within hail of the Regiment

Once more good forenoon

Yours affheckshunaighthe

Charlie Mac Vincent

Appomatox River

Camp 40th Mass. Vols.
 Bermuda 100, Va.
 June 19, 1864

Postscript – Later news

In consequence of my taking no pains to get my note on the route it as remained on my hands until to-day, and I now propose to add a few lines and forward the whole.

Since I commenced the within the 18th Corps has returned across the Appomattox and resumed its old position with Gen. Butler, alias the "Beast". + I arrived here with the baggage yesterday afternoon after much tribulation and vexation of spirit and found our regiment encamped in a pleasant spot about a mile from the Appomattox, and taking a little rest from their hard duties

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of the past six weeks.- They have been under fire fifteen days out of eighteen of the present month and their thinned ranks confirm the fact that it has been murderous work. – Where we are destined to go next I don't know. I sincerely hope that our Brigade will be allowed to rest for a few days, but cannot expect to lay idle a great while when such active work is going on. – All sorts of rumors are afloat to-day in regard to Gen. Grant's success at Petersburg. But from all accounts I am inclined to believe that he has achieved a decisive victory. (-decisive as to the fate of a large portion of Lee's army. – The lowest estimates say he has captured 18,000 prisoners. I hope this is so. It will have an important bearing on the

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issue of his campaign. General Gillmore has been relieved from command of the 10th Corps + Gen. W.H.T. Brooks, our former division commander, has assumed command of the Corps. – Reports say that we are to be reinstated in the 10th Corps but I hope not, for it has no reputation that is, it has never done anything to entitle it to extraordinary praise. Almost invariably subjected to defeat, the men do not want to be associated with it when we have helped, at a great sacrifice to gain for the 18th Corps, the reputation it now enjoys of being one of the best in the service.

For ease and convenience I presume the "Tenth" bears the palm but "white gloves" will never put down this rebellion.

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As we are ordered, so we are in duty bound to obey. – The prime duty of a soldier is to obey orders, cost what it will, even life itself. – It is hard sometimes but a soldier becomes something like the eel the old gentleman was taking the skin from, used to it.

I was very glad to find on my arrival in camp last night two letters – one from sister, one from you and Freddie. And this morning by a later mail, one from Frank in which he feelingly pleads the injustice of the present mode of drafting. – I am myself surprised to hear of such shing's, and trust they will be speedily remedied, and justice be meted out where it is due. I hope Frank will steer clear of the "drafts". I should much rather re-enlist and serve for three years

More, voluntarily, than to come as a conscript for one. I know the prejudice against conscripts in the army by "volunteers". The idea that I am credited to the miserable little town of Lynnfield is exasperating, when every one that knows me knows that I am out and out Edgartowner, Vineyarder, Dukes County-er, "Isle of the sea-er" now and ever shall be I hope. I love my native place, I love its pleasing quiet, its smell of herring and all kinds of fish, but putrid dogfish. Everything else I can go. – If ever I am a Duke, Earl, Lord, Knight, or anything of that sort, I shall have a herring for my coat of arms. Appropriate, is it not?

I also read this morning a letter

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from my esteemed and much respected friend Capt. John Sprague Smith.- an intellectual treat indeed as ^{his} letters always are. He is one of the most interesting letter writers I ever had. – Also a journal of the 10th from Frank and a copy of the Christian Advocate, al of which were thankfully read and perused with interest by your Charlie. – Lt. Underhill told me a little while ago that he saw Lieut. Sweet yesterday, who made inquiries for me. Asked if I was killed. Jesse told him, "no! I was all right. He said he didn't "want me hurt. Lieut. Sweet was quite smart.

I guess I have written about enough for this time, so I will close by wishing you all health and send my love. Believe me ever Your loving (if not dutiful son)

Charlie Mac

Near Petersburg, Virginia
Dinwiddie County
June 23rd, 1864

Dear Father:-

My last letter home bore date of June 19th, since which time our whole corps has been again moved to the south side of the Appomattox, and joined, or rather I should say is doing duty with the "Army of the Potomac", the boys had two or three days rest at Bermuda Hundred, Va., a thing much needed, out of the range of the traitorous firing, being about the first day out of range since the 1st of June.

We came across day before yesterday and I am now with the brigade teams parked about a mile and a half from the advance of the 18th Corps. Yesterday our Corps occupied the extreme front of the line and were under fire all day. No casualties in the 40th as far as I know. – I was engaged yesterday all day until late in the evening writing for the Quartermaster, and could hear the firing very distinctly.

One battery a little to my right and rear did throw the shells beautifully into a rebel fort that the Johnnies were busily engaged in building, and had several guns already mounted which they fired occasionally at our boys in the trenches. It was fun to see the Union sentiments going over to the Rebels and explode right plum into the Fort completely. One could see them skedaddling under cover. Probably they did not like that style of Union sentiment.

Our forces hold a splendid position, and can easily take Petersburg at any ~~moment~~ hour, but that is not Grant's plan for the present, I think. My opinion is that he wants Lee to try to dislodge him from his works, so that he can administer a severe dose to him. But Lee is a wary dog and will not always do as we wish him to. Another thing we could not well hold the city after taking it. – The picket line on our left is within a few yards of city, in fact in the outskirts thereof, and the boys on both sides have to lay low, or they stand a good chance, of having it done for them so effectually that they will never rise alive. Heavy firing all along the lines last night, and this morning, which I am writing can be heard the crack of the sharpshooter rifle, and occasionally the boom of heavier metal.

Richmond is a hard place to take, but I feel confident that it will fall before the summer ends. There will be more severe fighting unless Lee shall choose to evacuate the place, hardly a probably case, I think, however when it does come it will be all the better.

Such a campaign was never yet known to the civilized world, ~~before~~ such carnage, such unparalleled hardships and privations, and the men that bear up under it, must certainly have iron constitutions. It is now nearly ^{or quite} seven weeks since the opening fight at the Wilderness, and there has scarcely a day passed but what the Army of the Potomac has been under fire. Exposed to all kinds of weather, many times scantily fed it seems miraculous almost how any one is now alive.

I tell you what it is. I think government is showing a determination to crush the rebellion that has never ~~yet~~ been manifested before, and all it wants is the cordial support of every one at home, either personal service or money to carry it on. I am sorry that the Presidential Election comes off this fall, for I fear it will have a detrimental effect upon the war and only serve to prolong it. I trust that the really loyal men at the North have too much good sense to suffer their attention to be distracted by any little political differences of opinion.

I want to (Abe and Andy successful and I believe they will be. John C. Fremont has "cut a gut" and shows plainly that he is a disappointed office seeker. I am ~~sincerely~~ very much disappointed in the man. He has always been one of my favorites, but I must say that I am disgusted with his conduct this time. It is a bad sign to see a schism in the Republican at a time when every man's most earnest efforts should be put forth to support the Administration in its ~~means~~-measures to put down this unholy rebellion.

-P.M.- Shells are flying pretty lively just now from both sides. Capt. Dennis of the 40th was wounded about an hour ago by a piece of shell. (nearly spent; slightly fracturing his collarbone. Not a dangerous wound I hope. Dennis is a little fellow about as big as Eddard Norton but plucky as one could wish.

I thought to fill this sheet but have been busy, and had to write at spells. Now I must close or lose a chance to send, perhaps, for several days.

I am well and in good spirits, and hope you are all well at home. Give my love to all.

Hastily I have to close.
Your affectionate son
Charlie Mac.

40th Mass. Vols.
3rd Brig, 1st Div, 18th Corps
Fortress Munroe, Va.

Near Petersburg, Va.
June 27, 1864

Mother:-

At a late hour last evening, about ½ past 9, the Quartermaster came down from the front to the teams where I am now stopping and brought me a letter from your ain'sel' – dated 19 + 22^d June. Rest assured I was glad enough to get it, and devoured the contents with avidity, as all your letters are. When I consider how hard it is for you to write, I think you have done most excellently, and I cannot complain of the epistolary treatment I receive from home. Frank writes me often and I guess I have received all the letters you have sent, although a long time getting them in times past. Some of the papers Frank has sent I fear I have failed to receive, but have had quite a number, and feel very grateful for them. ___ I am kept pretty busy the most of the time, now, although nothing of a driving nature except driving the pen over a vast amount of Uncle Sam's Stationery changing the delicate white with chasings of ink, converting blank sheets to documents of value to the various heads of Departments in the "city of magnificent distances".

For the past few days the weather has been almost intolerably warm, - so warm, in fact, as to make on feel decidedly lazy – a new feeling to me, your smart and active son. You know I am not naturally lazy only constitutionally tired. – I think I never suffered more with the heat in my life than for the space I have just mentioned. Hot and terribly dusty, with scarcely a breath of air stirring, comes about as nigh an oven as human flesh can stand to be baked in, and come out alive. – I am very pleasantly situated in a fine grove of pines, will sheltered and ^{if⁸} feel thus, how must the poor fellers suffer who are out in the trenches, where they have not only the element to contend with but missiles of death and destruction from traitorous guns. They must be salamanders. I tell you, mother, I have reasons to be thankful for the manner in which I am now provided for, and try to feel so. I know I have the prayers of many friends at home for my welfare, and although I may act as if I respected them but little, it is not in reality so. I trust they will not be in vain. The fruit may not yet be ripened, but in time they will be of some avail. ---

Army news of interest is a scarcity even in the news producing region. The hostile armies maintain about ^{nearly} the same relative positions that they have for a week past. Artillery, duelling, and occasionally some musketry as some daring fellows attempt to feel of each others position, and everything progresses with the usual monotony. We have got a position that the Rebs cannot drive us from, whether we can force them from their remains to be seen. I Think it can and will be done in good season. Genl. Grant enjoys the confidence of his whole command and I worthy of it. __ He is using the means at his disposal with a lavish hand, but I firmly believe it is the surest and most effectual way to do the business. Richmond seems to be a the secondary, rather than prime consideration ~~towards~~ of his mind. The prime object is to annihilate Lee's Veteran Army, then Richmond follows as a matter of course with an easy victory. I hope this campaign will be the final one, although I cannot entertain the idea that much will be done until the Presidential contest is decided. I presume the Rebs would rather see even see Fremont elected than "Honest Abe" and "Loyal Andy". But I believe if they think of prolonging the contest until Abe takes a retired seat they will have to wait for the next decennial census.

My health is pretty good, considering the hard knocks, and extreme heat I have to endure. I have lost some flesh since I came from Florida, but still am getting along finely, and hope I shall turn up all right in the end.

Twenty two months of my three years service expired yesterday, and I have fourteen more to look forward to ere the termination of this affair, then I shall come home if I am in the land of the living. "Fly swifter round ye wheels of time and bring the welcome day" is the language of my heart.

But I will close for this letter.

Love to all my inquiring friends, and a good share to yourself.

About a year ago you sent me a pocket handkerchief in a letter. A repetition (sic) of the same act would not offend me in the least. You see, I suppose, Have not a thing to wipe my proboscis on, but my coat sleeve.

Good night,

Your Son

Charlie Mac

3rd Brig, 1st Div. 18th Corps.

New Petersburg, Va
July 10 11th, 1864

Dear Father:-

I suppose you will like to hear somewhat concerning your absent blood relation, pretty nearly too. I never entertained any serious doubts until now of the fact of your being my paternal progenitory, and nothing that I have seen or heard since leaving home, has ever induced me to be here otherwise. I therefore holdly obtain you as my worthy father, and am proud to do so, whether you are proud to acknowledge or not. Judging from the tone and general character of your epistolary effusions so copiously bestowed as to render the date of the last oblivious. I think you are not mistaken as to my identity and are not ashamed to own me—Just give us a letter once in a while and let a fellow know how you fell on the subject. I know it is hard work for you to write much, but drop a line, "Sammy" now and then and let a fellow know you're alive.—Don't think my dear father that I am disproved to find fault, but I do like to have your letters, let them be as short as they may.

About the weather, I will say that it is too plaguey hot to talk about. It is the kind that tries men's bodies and souls too. (The very idea of any physical or mental task starts the perspiration oozing from every pore, and courses its way down toward ones Bosterior Parts and pedal extremities so much so as to keep a fellows feet wet about all the time. Then if you undertake to draw a long breath, the air is so full of dust as to almost suffocate you. Pretty tough stories aren't they? Well, these are tough times.

I am busy near all the time, on quartermaster's papers, but it is not hard work. I had rather do it than lay in the trenches four days out of six as the rest of the poor fellows have to. I tell you, I have been just a lucky boy, the present summer and no mistake.

I feel thankful for it too. My health is pretty good the most of the time, and is at present. I had a touch of the diarrhea the other day but that is all over with now and I ^{am} in good trim.

There is not much news in the war line to relate. Affairs are having a lull, apparently, but the sore will probably break out a fresh ere long, and there look out for hot and sharp work.

The great scare in Pennsylvania I guess don't amount to much, but I must say it is a confounded shame for the Johnnies to be allowed to come plundering such a fine country as they have been in, in Maryland. It is nearly a year since I was around, and through the same places, that there is now such talk about.

Maryland is a beautiful country.—Much unlike Virginia, by a right smart heap, I reckon from personal observation. But the last news I had heard from there gave the information that the Rebs were on the retreat, and but if they are in any force they will not give it up so you may bet. It's only a clap trap game to come the Paddy is over us.—But I have got to go up to the Regt. a few minutes.

July 13.-Morning 6 A.M.

I was so busy yesterday that I found it impossible to find a chance to finish the letter, but have just got my breakfast down and thought I would send this on its way, rejoicing. I had some Journals from Frank yesterday, also the Gazette of July 8th.

The weather is awful hot. Another yaller day before me.

The rebel demonstration in Maryland is quite threatening, but I hope the North will turn out in sufficient force to check the invaders.—I think this raid will have a

wholesome effect on our people. It will show them that it is no time to relax their exertions for the salvation of the Union.

You must excuse this hurriedly written & badly composed letter and attribute the faults to the emergency of having scout time. I will write you a better one soon.

Love to all—

Your son
Charlie Mac

Hdqtrs. Brigade Frani
Near Petersburg, Va.
July 19, 1864

Dear Father:-

I am extremely gratified to inform you that to-day the rain so long expected and earnestly hoped for has been descending in copious showers, refreshing the earth and all the inhabitants thereof around about these yer diggings. _ A little moisture was certainly needed to lay the dust that had become so deep as to render locomotion an extremely disagreeable task. I never saw so much dust in all my life. A little breeze of wind would fill the air so full, along the line of the roads, as to almost suffocate one to inhale it. It did rain most gloriously, "squire Vincent" I tell you, and I feel much better.

I have been very busy all day, as well as for several days past, on Commissary Returns. It is a nice job. Lt. Underhill says he will make just as good a Commissary clerk ^{of me} as there is in the service when he gets through with this set. I am very glad to have the opportunity to learn the different branches of the Army business. It may become useful to me sometime or other. One thing is pretty sure, it will never be of any disadvantage to me. _ _

This evening it does not rain much but the clouds look threatening. They are having pretty lively times at the front this evening. They are shelling pretty lively, and keep up a right smart musketry fire along the skirmish or picket line. _ I have just heard that another one of the 40th was wounded to-day. Have not ascertained his name. So they go one by one. If they keep on at this rate, there will not be scarcely a corporal's guard left to enter the old Bay State in September 1865. _

Probably the people at home are becoming somewhat anxious to know what is going on here at the front. _ Well, suffice it to say that we are not laying idle, but something will be done soon I think, judging from all that I hear and see and know. _ I will not prophesy, because I have got past that. I am willing to await developments, and take things as they come. I tell you, Genl. Grant knows what he is about, and is fully alive to the great responsibility resting on him; and I believe he is the man to shoulder the load and perform the work expected of him. – If I may be allowed to say anything, I will hazard the prediction that the decisive and closing scenes of this tragical war will occur in a country further south than Virginia. – Sherman seems to be doing the heaviest of the work at present, and I guess he will use up Joe Johnston's army. _ Sherman has got able Lieutenants with such men as Hooker, Howard & McPherson he certainly cannot complain for lack of able generals to execute his plans.

I get news from home quite often, & I assume they are welcomed with no small degree of pleasure. _ _

I suppose the haying season is about over. You know that I used to be a valuable hand in the meadow especially when there was any mowing to be done. I used to cut some heavy swaths in the Bradleys meadow, Johnny Luce told me when I saw him a few days weeks ago that you had disposed of Old White Horse that you had when I left home. I suppose you have got another me.

Father, I think Government would make a good thing, and you too, if they would hire you to come out here and resuscitate dead horses and recuperate broken down Cavalry ones. There is a wide field and a rare chance to exercise your well known talents

in curing condemned horse flesh. What do you think, hey? I do say or it, I would like right well to come home and have a right smart talk with you on various subjects. If I ever do live to get there I shall have enough to talk about to last us several good washroom "smoke outs".

I presume that Edgartown is about as nigh dead as can be. It must be awful lonesome there, though I suppose you do not mind it much. I think I should be satisfied to stay there a short time and test the dulness reputed to my "sea goin' home".

My health at the present time is very good, and with the exception of being excessively troubled with flies in the daytime + fleas at night. These fine woods are full of fleas and the are rather uncomfortable customers to sleep with.

The cook for our mess here was formerly in the Rebel service having deserted from them about two years ago. He was in the 24th Virginia Rebel Infantry. He is a good Union man and a pretty good fellow. – He says that he entered the service in May, 1861, volunteered because he had to do it to keep from being shot at home. He improved the first opportunity to escape to our lines, and enlisted in our army. He name is Isaac Rigney, from the Western part of the state.

Father, I was sorry to hear of the death of Uncle Harrison, but from what Frank wrote to me I can not wish him back. – Peace to his ashes. I hope every one will die as peaceful and happy as he.

But I must close. Love to all the household of which you are the acknowledged head.

Hoping this cruel war will permit me to come home before many months.

I remain Your affectionate son

Charlie Mac. Vincent

New Petersburg, Va
July 30th, 1864

Dear Sister:-

It is now nearly evening and I have just finished my comfortable smoke of borrowed tobacco & feel quite calm. I can't say cool, for the present day has been one of the hottest I have experienced in my short period of existence in this sublunary sphere. It is one of those regular melters, when man is imminent danger of becoming a nonentity—nothing left to mark his resting place but a grease spot, if one happened to be fat. The leau, alas, have not even this to establish their identity.—And, we have had harder fighting to-day than there has been before a long time in the vicinity of Petersburg.—Our Brigade has lost some men, but not many, they for once, not having been placed in the extreme front. Preparations for this days work ~~have been~~ had been made, and after much work, one of the large Rebel forts was undermined and a large of powder placed under it, and this morning the torch was applied, the fort and all its unfortunate inmates were blown into ruins. The ninth Corps. supported by the 18th Corps. charged on the lines and succeeding^{ed} in capturing two lines of earthworks, which at last accounts ~~they~~^{we} still retained. Our forces also entered a third line, but the fire was so hot, they were obliged to abandon this. We captured quite a number of prisoners, and their loss must be heavy.—Heavy firing has been kept up nearly all day, but now they are comparatively quiet. I do not think we have gained any very decided advantage, on the whole ^{looking} towards the occupation of Petersburg immediately.

Sunday morning: July 31.—The day has the appearance of another swelterer. But I hope I shall be able to stand it as I have several others of the same sort. The affair yesterday I am sorry to say, did not end very favorably. Yesterday afternoon our boys were forced to evacuate the works they had gained in the morning, & at night we were just where we started in the morning. The loss I think was greater in our side than on the side of the Johnies. Prisoners about equal. The heaviest loss was among the colored troops of the 9th & 18th Corps., the loss of the 40th as far as I have learned was but 4 wounded all slightly, including Lieut. Chas. A. Currier of Co. H—We shall probably resume an old position along the line to-day, & resume inactive operations again; resorting to the spades, seemingly a safer trump than the clubs. These ^{are the} facts ~~are~~ of the case as far as I know.

Herewith I send you a letter I received from Cousin Lizzie a long time ago, which I want you to keep for me. It is an excellent letter, I think and I prize it highly as I do all communications from her.

Thanks to the Sanitary & Christian Commissions the soldiers are having the benefit of a good supply of vegetable the present season. A thing that they appreciate I assure you. Pickles, Onions, & potatoes have been generously issued to the men, and are just what is needed. I am getting to be a great lover of vegetables, and can stand father a pretty good sweat.

Lieut. Underhill treats me very kindly and I must still consider myself a lucky boy to keep out of the awful hard duty, that falls to the lot of those doing duty in the ranks. My health is good. Regards to all. Excuse this brief epistle and rest assured I would do better if it was not so plaguey hot. A good lot of genuine love, Your Brother Charlie Mac. sends.

Headqtrs. 37 Brig. 1st Div 18 A.C.
Near Petersburg, Va.
August 9, 1864

My dear Father:-

Having a few moments of leisure just now, I thought I would reply to your very welcome letter of the 3rd instant received by the undersigned night before last. I have just finished my dinner of hard tack, salt horse, potatoes, and excellent spring water, and am happy to say that I ate heartily thereof and consequently feel right smart.—

Whether I have eaten too much dinner for a clear head remains to be seen. I trust however that I can draw logical conclusions from pertinent facts, now as well as ever.

We have just been favored with a slight shower, accompanied with heavy thunder, &^e & the thunder has not yet ceased. It was getting to be very dry and dusty again, and a little more rain is needed to lay the dust effectually. The weather since the month of August arrived has been almost intolerably warm, and I think I have suffered as much with the heat as I ever did in my life. It is a little cooler to-day, but even now while I am writing the sweat is pouring out of me in streams. But I have got accustomed to it somewhat now, and can stand the heat quite well by perspiring freely. This forenoon I have been busy making up Returns and sending them away to the proper Departments. My correspondence is getting to be quite extensive. I have written to two Brigadier Generals to-day, and scarce a day passes, but when I have correspondence with some member of Uncle Sam's "shoulder strap" gentry. Write some nonsense you would not get as many letters as you do.

Permit me to say that I ~~am~~ was much pleased with your last letter, and only wish they came along oftener. However, I know it is hard work for you to write much, and I do not think strange. But just write as often as you can, and I shall be very happy to await your pleasure, hoping you will be pleased very often in this respect. "Ever of thon"—and the rest of the folks I am fondly thinking as "Artemus Ward" says, in some of his incomparable sayings, and, I would really like to be there. One thing is encouraging, I am on ^{the} last month of the second year's service for "Samuel."

Father, I do sincerely wish this rebellion was played out and I believe it is, although I must confess that ~~things~~ affairs look peculiarly black for our side at the present time. What a most egregious blunder was made here on the 30th of July is evident enough to the dullest intellect. On whom the responsibility of the mismanagement rests, will be known to the people ere long. A "Court of Inquiry" into the causes which led to the disaster is in progress at City Point, with the gallant and brave Hancock as its presiding genius, and I believe they will sift matters to the bottom. Let the guilty one [be] brought to the punishment so justly deserved, no matter who he may be. It was a golden opportunity to capture Petersburg, but it was ingloriously lost and I fear we shall never have a better one if we stay here until doomsday. Don't think that I am getting discouraged for this is by no means the fact. My disposition is too sanguine & hopeful to allow one reverse to dim my faith in the power of the Government to sustain itself. I tell you, we must triumph, and by the help of an All wise Being, (I speak reverently) we will, for I believe our cause is just and on the side of night, Liberty to all? Are not these three words sufficient to cause men to rejoice and believe that such a cause must triumph. All we want now is the support of the loyal hearts, and a million willing hands and this contact will be settled in double quick time.—

Of one thing, I am sorry, and that is that the Presidential election is to come off the present fall, for it bonds to distract the attention of the people from the war and creates bitter partisan feelings all around. I do wish Old Uncle Abe would make a stir in his Cabinet and put somebody in the place of Rip Van Winkle Welles, Sec'y of the Navy, if no other change. And I firmly believe he would have much more peace in the family if some worthy men were placed at the head of the Departments of War & Post Office. Old Blair is a troublesome fellow, according to my way of thinking. One other thing, I think would add much to his popularity and that is the appointment of M^cClellan, to some active duty. It is truly wonderful to see what confidence the Army of the Potomac have in M^cClellan. I must own that I have changed my views somewhat in relation to him, when I see so many men who have fought under him, esteem him so highly. It certainly could not do Abe any hurt to offer him a command, then he can accept or not? I don't by any means fancy Mac^s. "political ideas," but think he is a good general, and would get more recruits than any other man.—Well hurrah for "Abe and Andy" any hour, and let her rip.—

Love to all the people. My health is first rate. Accept this from your son.

Charlie Mac

Bermuda Hundred, Va.
October 1, 1864

Dear Frank:-

I have not seen my boots yet. I am sorry to say. The rainy season has begun, and I am not much better off than as if I was barefooted. I wrote about a fortnight ago, saying you had better send them by mail. The cause of the delay perhaps you can explain to my satisfaction, but at present the affair is shrouded in mystery. I did not write for them in the first place until I was really in need of them. Now, nearly a month has gone & no boots. I am not disposed to find fault as a general thing, but, I must say I am disappointed in not receiving them, since mother write about the box. I never send for anything until I absolutely need them and so I wish they could come as promptly as possible when I do send. I can get many things out here that I send for by paying nearly double price, but as a matter of economy choose rather to send home. Don't think hard of my for talking so plain for I know you are all willing to do everything for my comfort possible, but I do feel a little provoked this time because I am suffering for the article. I should have drawn a pair of Government "Pontoons" long ago, but have been laying off in expectation of something better. We do not draw clothing but once a month, and our next estimate will not be issued upon before the last of the present month. I saw a pair of heavy Boots that came by mail this morning for a fellow in D "Co." and the postage on them was only forty cents. But enough of this. If you have not sent them please do so immediately of this letter.

Wednesday evening, a portion of our Corps moved across the James, and proceeded to Chaffin's Farm, opposite Drury's Bluff, and at daylight Thursday morning, charged on the enemy's works, carrying the first line, capturing some seven "siege guns," and a few pieces of field artillery. The 3^d Brigade was ~~on~~ the first to enter one large fort with five pieces, capturing a Lieut. Col. & a few prisoners. The charge was led by the gallant 58th Penn, which you probably remember of seeing when in North Carolina

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Col. J. Richter Jones's Regt. They lost heavily but held their positions. In the charge that morning, Gen. Ord was wounded, Gen. Burnham, Comdg 2nd Brig, killed & Col. Stevens of N.H. Comdg. 1st Brig. Wounded mortally. Yesterday (Friday) afternoon, the Johnnies made three charges on our lines, but were repuled every time and were punished terribly. The hardest of the fighting was done on the front of our Brigade line, the rebels seeming to be determined to retake the fort. But the boys of the 3rd Brig. couldn't see it in that light. The result of the three charges are as follows: Our Brigade alone took 27 Com. Officers, & 1130 En. Men. Prisoners, and the ground in front of them is literally covered with dead and wounded Johnnies. They have done nobly this time, no mistake, but we have lost nearly half our own no. in killed & wounded since crossing the river. The boys are in excellent spirits, notwithstanding it has rained steady for the past twenty hours. _ Our losses have been severe in officers, I regret to say that our beloved Division Commander, Gen. Geo. J. Staunard, of Vermont, is severely wounded will probably lose an arm and five of his staff officers are ^{either} killed ^{or} & wounded, as follows: - Capt. Kent

Asst. Adj. Genl., Capt. Bessey, Inspector General, Capt. Converse, Provost Marshal, & Gen'l Cook, Comdg Div. Pioneers were wounded, & Lieut. Ladd, Commissary of Musters killed. The staff of the 3^d Brig have lost, two. Lt. Hubbell, of the 21st Com. Asst. Adj. Genl. Wounded through the both shoulders, and Lieut. Fitch of the 40th "A.D.C." killed. Lieut. Fitch was a fine little fellow, and belonged in Middleboro.

Some of the heaviest cannonading I ever heard, occurred over on the Petersburg ~~last~~ side about sunset last evening, continuing about two hours. What it amounted to I cannot say. Quite heavy firing over that way to-day.

I believe the crisis is fast approaching and I should not be surprised if I was in Richmond in the course of a fortnight or three weeks. Gold is tumbling down rapidly, and so is McClellan stuck. A vote in the 40th the other day stood as follows. Lincoln 172, McClellan 30. This is about a fair sample of the feeling of the army, about six to one. – But I must close. Love to Ellen, Gracie, and all the folks.

Believe me Your loving brother
Charlie Mac.

Appendix I – Guidelines for Working With Manuscripts

Working with manuscripts

Professor Joel J. Brattin
8 April 1999

I. Etiquette

- A. Dress professionally; if you look like a bum, no one will trust you with rare documents.
- B. Make sure your hands are clean. Don't get potato chip grease on a letter Abraham Lincoln signed.
- C. Assume that you will take notes in pencil only. Bring a pencil, an eraser, and a sharpener; don't even bring a pen with you.
- D. Find out in advance if you can use a word processor; museum and library policies vary.
- E. If necessary, bring a letter of reference, stating that you have a legitimate scholarly purpose in wishing to consult manuscripts (one from Professor Mott will do nicely).
- F. Don't be insulted if you are "invigilated"--or if your papers are searched when your work is done.

II. Transcribing

- A. What is your goal? What kind of transcription are you preparing?
 - 1.) Most scholarly text: a "diplomatic transcription," in which you preserve the lineation, capitalization, spelling, and punctuation, of the original, including all errors; transcribe all interlineations and deletions.
 - 2.) Less scholarly text: preserve spelling, capitalization, and punctuation (but not lineation) of original; integrate manuscript revisions into your text silently.
 - 3.) Scholarly reading text: regularize (correct) faulty spelling, capitalization, and punctuation, noting precisely where and how you are doing so.
 - 4.) Silently regularized reading text: regularize (correct) faulty capitalization, spelling, and punctuation, without noting where and how you are doing so.
- B. Techniques and tips
 - 1.) Do the easy stuff first.
 - 2.) Go over documents repeatedly.
 - 3.) Ask your teammates to check your work.
 - 4.) For particularly difficult words or letters:
 - a.) use a dictionary or other reference work.
 - b.) look for similar words or letters in other contexts in the same document.
 - c.) where you must guess, put the guess in square brackets.

III. Annotation

- 1.) What kind of annotation do you need?
 - A. Scholarly or expert audience
 - B. General audience
 - C. Youth audience
- 2.) What needs annotation?
 - A. Names
 - B. Places
 - C. Historical events
 - D. Diction--use the Oxford English Dictionary.