

GENERAL INDEX TO THE GEORGE L. WINTERS LETTER.

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Mud March: 2/19/63.

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Camp Near Stafford C H
Thursday Feb 19th 1863

Friend Eliza

Do I hear? I certainly do & in consequence thereof I hasten to reply to your Epistle which found its way to my tent last night at 9 ½ Oc.

Procrastination is the thief of time so saith the old Proverb and when a mans time is nearly filled up with daily duties & he has 38 different correspondents they should take his circumstances into consideration & make allowances accordingly. I Beg your Pardon for Sins past with the endeavor to try & do better in the future. To a Soldier who's daily food is Hard tack Beef & Coffee a letter from one who he claims as a *Friend* is to him a glorious feast.

This day in the year of our Lord -63- finds this child enjoying a usual Degree of health hoping that this Sheet may find you in like circumstances. The inclemency of the weather is such just now that we find it very unpleasant getting around. We enjoyed a nice snow storm day before yesterday & yesterday we were favored with rain enough to take it all down the river consequently we find the mud to be plump Shoe deep. Since I last wrote you we have made two marches the 1st you have undoubtedly heard all about it was preparatory to Gen Burnsid's 2nd attempt to cross the Rappahannoc our Regt enjoyed a four day march as guards for the Pontoon Train two days in the mud knee deep & if I dare say it in some places it was deeper yet. To me a Soldiers is not one of the most pleasant my natural inclinations are such that the society of those necessary Evils called Femamnes contribute greatly towards making life pleasant.

Yet the Soldiers life is by no means a solitary one where there are so many different minds & tongues and all feel as though they should contribute a portion in consideration there must necessarily be a great deal said & some at least that will excite the most lonely to Laughter Story telling and song singing are every day occurrences and as we have some cute Boys & Some good singers times are not so bad.

You will observe that my hand trembles the greatest wonder to me is that I can write at all. When I think that this day & perhaps while I am writing it Miss Rebecca Bozard is to be united in the Holy Bonds of Matrimony with one Newell. So goes the world goes & I can think of nothing but the language of the Poet when he said, Poor Fool he is doomed to Die an old Bach, "Hip, Hip Hurrah" what is still worse Slate West is no longer a rose in the Garden but a faded plucked from the tree of Freedom to adorn the Boquet of Nat Marsh.

And now one more thing worries me that is the cute little Schoolmaster with 2 knives & 2 watches.

As regards cuteness I make no pretentions in that line But I have got two watches a Jack Knife that is large enough for two, to use or two knives & a nice little Swoard to Boot and further if he is any smaller than I am he has no Business with the woman.

I have just been to dinner had smoked Ham Bread & Butter crackers & Tea good fare for a soldier. We have a Bakery in our Brigade camp where we can Buy Cake Pies &c Butter \$1.00 a lb Cheese 50 cts pies 25 cts Each other things accordingly if you should chance to see a nice little Gall, that would like to be a soldier send her to the 154th for I need some one to cook for me very much The guard must be called out and George must do it my respects to Friends Generaly & Kissing Compliments to Eliza. Please Ans as soon as convenient do you hear if so follow my example in this one respect yours truly your Friend & Well Wisher

G L Winters

You wanted to know if I did not wish I was in Cattaraugus or some where else this winter. I will say in reply that I wish I could be there & have this rebellion put down then I think I should be contented & perfectly Happy But as it is I am here & I have no desire to leave until the Regt I am in is discharged from the Service If I ever do get home the People in our part of the country will soon find it out. Hurry that Answer.

With regard to Barnard Bozard I am sorry to hear of his poor Success but I always knew he could not teach school notwithstanding his knowledge of Books compared to mine is as $\frac{3}{4}$ is to 790

You have my sincere thanks for telling me where Clark Farr is if his Regt is within hailing distance I will find him for I would give a good deal to see him

Write all the particulars for I am getting quite old maidish and like to hear all the news thus endeth the first lesson

Letter written by Sgt. George L. Winters, Humphrey, Cattaraugus County, New York, in Company C, 154th New York Volunteer Infantry.

NOTES:

Eliza is Eliza Guthrie of Humphrey, daughter of Almon Guthrie and Betsey Salisbury
Barnard and Rebecca Bozard were siblings of Ashbel Bozard of the 154th New York Vols.
Newell is Harrison Newell, who enlisted in Co. A, 188th New York Vols. in 1864

Courtesy of Phil Palen, Gowanda, N.Y.