

Fall 8-28-1863

Letter from Charles Warner to his mother Mrs. Almon Warner, August 28, 1863

Charles Warner

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I think I told you sometime since that on order
from our brigade Commander required the Colonel
to form his Command at dusk of day for "Roll call"
I was up one or two Mornings, and as I noticed
the Colonel was not very particular to ascertain
who was up. I afterwards laid aside, and I learned
that the Colonel himself seldom got up now
after - Well things went on in this style till a day or
two ago, the Colonel happening to arise early took
the trouble to find out who was up, when he found
only two officers were out, the rest of no. were
ordered to make out written statements to him
through the Adjutants, setting forth our reasons
for not getting up - here let me say that the
night previous to my not getting up - I had been
on Camp guard duty. And though I had not
been near my guard from the time it was
mounted one morning till it was retrieved
the next, yet, I thought to make an excuse
of it. writing as nearly as I can recollect as follows
"Adjutant

Having been requested to state my
reasons in writing for not attending "Roll call" this
morning (Aug 28) I will say in relation thereto

That having been detailed on 2^d Nov. Aug. the
night of previous, and with but little ^{rest-} sleep
from the fatiguing duties arising therefrom
I unintentionally overslept myself -
Justifying, ^{that} the Colonel Commanding will pardon
this neglect on my part.

To Mr. M. Henderson
Adj^{nt} H^qs Reg^{ts} N. 70.

I have the honor to remain
Very Respectfully
Your Obedt Serv^t

On taking this to the Adjutant's office he very flatteringly
told me it was a Lie - but of course he presented
it and that was the last I heard from it -
On the night which I was on guard duty of
the Adjutant - a Lieut. with myself were in
the Lieut. Col's tent all on selves. As that night I
had but little sleep - I had thought to get
an excuse from the Surgeon, by being very sick -
but as the night was so the Lieut. Col's tent we
had fixed ^{the Surgeon's} bed so that it fell down with
him on it, and in Sunday other ways en-
deavored to bother him, so that he finally got
mad, and said angry things about us - I did
not dare to go near him, as I have that excuse
for another time if I need it - I have got up
since we were caught napping but the Colonel has
not been up since. I suppose he is laying back for
us again - As the officers are generously united
against him, there is no love to him and to be
to morrow he will be mustered for two months pay
which will then be due us - after that we
shall be looking again for the Paymaster -
The last \$100 I have earned very easily - in
fact with but little real work - I will be raised

however I think I have been as saving as most officers - in a letter
I had from Uncle Toby, he acknowledges to have \$725.00 of my money
in his hands to day. I am indebted for two months arrears - first
with Comdg. Co. last Spring which I did not get on last pay day
and with Comdg. Co. for the past month or so will amount
to \$235.00 - making in all \$960.00, I have \$45.00 in pocket -
and have paid debts & sent Thom. \$75.00 home - making a \$1080.⁰⁰₁₅
I saved within a year - In fact I can account for more money
than Uncle Sam allows me by considerable - all for services
ones Country, under a hold price - I am on Camp & Guard
Duty w. duty, and it is nearly time to get ready - I shall have
to go over to brigade headquarters when the guard is mounted
then turn over my instructions to the Sergeant and leave him
till it is time for me to be relieved for - tomorrow - we have a
brigade Camp Guard, and we furnish a Lieut. every 4 days, the
other regiments taking their turns in furnishing them - I have
been very fortunate, in doing this kind of duty since the 13th
when I was lost on picket, and I am the only Lieut. who
has been on that duty from this Regiment - all thanks to Col. Hen-
derson, and I wish I could be for that duty every day, for I think I
would have nothing else to bother and those duties I presume you
would not, but I have Congress enough for ones to explain for just one Chapter

Monday ^{P.M.} Morning: I will add a few lines to my already lengthened.
I have just partaken of an oyster breakfast, and though quite
good, it tastes strongly of Postal Currency. I paid 60cts for a
Can of sealed oysters, that would hold a half pint, and make but
a scanty breakfast, while that I can buy a breakfast in
3/4 of the hotels in New York City, and for superior to mine, but then
the Sutters must find some way, and they generally manage it.
The Sutter I bought these oysters from is believed to be belonging to
the 3^d Div. of this Division, but which is now in New York with the 2^d Div. ^{of other}
And trades cheaper than any Sutter I have ever found. I should have paid
60cts elsewhere. And since I have been in the army I have paid over
\$200.00 to Sutters for some such kind of trash (I) as they buy strong

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about Aug. 28, 1863

Mrs. Abner Hamer
Williamsburg
Va.

1st Page of this Letter is Missing

I think I told you sometime since that an order from our brigade commander required the Colonel to form his command at break of day for "Roll Call" I was up one or two mornings, and as I noticed the Colonel was not very particular to ascertain who was up, I afterwards laid abed, and I lea(r)ned that the Colonel himself seldom got up soon after - Well things went on in this style till a day or two ago, the Colonel happening to arise early - took the trouble to find out who was up, when behold only two officers were out. the rest of us were ordered to make out written statements to him through the Adjutant, setting forth our reasons for not getting up - here let me say that the night previous to my not getting up - I had been on camp guard duty. and though I had not been near my guard from the time it was mounted one morning till it was relieved the next, yet, I thought to make an excuse out of it. writing as nearly as I can recollect as follows

"Adjutant

Having been requested to state my reasons in writing for not attending "roll call" this morning (Aug. 28) I will say in relation thereto that having been detailed on guard duty the night previous, and with but little rest from the fatiguing duties arising therefrom I unintentionally overslept myself.

Trusting that the Colonel Commanding will pardon this neglect on my part

To W W Henderson) I have the honor to remain
Adjnt 145th Regt N.Y.V.) Very Respectfully

Your Obdt Servt

On taking this to the Adjutants office he very flatteringly told me it was a lie - but of course he presented it and that was the last I heard from it. On the night which I was on guard duty the Adjutant - a Lieut, with myself were in the Lieut. Col's tent till one oclock so that I had but little sleep. I had thought to get an excuse from the surgeon, by being very sick but as the as the m(n?)ight we were at the Lt Col's tent we had fixed his, the surgeons, bed so that it fell down with him in it, and in sundry other ways endeavored to bother him, so that he finally got mad, and said awful things about us. I did not dare to go near him, so I have that excuse for another time if I need it - I have got up since we were caught napping but the colonel has not been up since. I suppose he is laying back for us again. As the officers are generally united against him, there is no one to run and tattle.

Letter with first page missing continued

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To morrow we are mustered for two months pay which will then be due us - after that we shall be looking again for the Paymaster - The last \$100 I have carried very easily - in fact with but little real work-

Charles Warner

P.S. Monday Morning: I will add a few lines to my already lengthy letter. I have just partaken of an oyster breakfast, and though quite good, it tastes strongly of postal currency - I paid 50 cts for a can of sealed oysters, that would hold a half pint, and make but a scanty breakfast, while that sum would buy a breakfast in $\frac{3}{4}$ of the hotels in New York City, and far superior to mine. but then the sutlers must live someway. and they generally manage to. The sutler I bought these oysters from is a colored get belonging to the 3rd Wis. of this Division, (but which is now in New York with the 2nd Mass & others) and trades cheaper than any sutler I have ever found. I should have paid 60 cts elsewhere- and since I have been in the army I have paid over \$200.00 to sutlers for some such kind of trash (?) as they bring along however I think I have been as saving as most officers - in a letter I had from Uncle lately, he acknowledges to have \$7.25,00 of my money in his hands to day I am mustered for two months more, which with Comdg. Co. last spring which I did not get on last pay day and with Comdg. Co. for the past month or so will amount to \$235.00 - making in all \$960.00. I have \$45.00 in pocket and have paid debts & sent home \$75.00 more - making \$1080.00/100 saved within a year. In fact I can account for more money than Uncle Sam allows me by considerable - all for serving ones country, under a hated Price- I am on camp guard duty to-day. and it is nearly time to get ready. I shall have to go over to brigade headquarters when the guard is mounted/ then turn over my instructions to the Sergeant and leave him till it is time for me to be relieved to-morrow. We have a brigade camp guard and we furnish a Lieut. every 4 days, the other regiments taking their turn in furnishing them - I have been very fortunate in doing this kind of duty since the 13th when I was last on picket, and I am the only Lieut who has been on that duty from this regiment - all thanks to Adj. Henderson- and I wish I could be on that duty every day, for then I would have nothing else to bother, and that duty I assure you would not, but I have confessed enough for once so adieu from your son Charlie