

Transcript of Letter from Charles Warner to his Mother Mrs. Almon Warner, August 28, 1863

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Box Number: 277

Folio: f.9

Author: Charles Warner

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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 there from I unintentionally overslept myself.

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

To W.W. Henderson }  
Adj<sup>t</sup> 145<sup>th</sup> Reg<sup>t</sup> N.Y.V. }

I have the honor to remain

Very Respectfully

Your Obd<sup>t</sup> Serv<sup>t</sup>

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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 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 otherways 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.

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 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 3<sup>rd</sup> Wis. of this Division, (but which is now in New York with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Mass<sup>^</sup> & 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.<sup>00</sup>/<sub>100</sub> 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 - 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