

Object ID: *MG0828_SeriesD-61_F15*

Document: *Part of a letter from Thomas Welsh to Annie Welsh, No date*

Transcription:

I suppose some of our boys complain of my severity, but when I reflect on the great advantage of good conduct cleanliness etc. on the part of soldiers, I feel like doing my duty. And then when they see how much better they are treated, than others are, they think that discipline too is all very proper.

I think that we will be off in a few days or perhaps a week at farthest, for Port Royal,ⁱ or as one report says to Fernandina – Florida. So you will see that we are not likely to be where cold weather will affect us, altho. spring away from home.

I suppose you know that 45 of the “Sky” is your Husband

Gov. Curtins brother (father to 2 of my Capt-)ⁱⁱ has been spending a few days with us- he has been in nearly all the Pennsylvania Camps- and pronounced ours much the best- He was surprised to find that all of the officers were temperate, and that there was not a single case of drunkenness in the Reg^t and during his stay there was not a man in the Guard House- he thought it strange that I could have such good order in Camp without punishing men severely- he says too, that we drill with more accuracy than any other Volunteer Reg^t he has seen- I think he will take a good account of us to Harrisburg.

Be kind enough to write frequently and why does not Miss A. T. W. write more often- I know that when Effie & Lillie can write, letters will be plenty. When I leave here I will make arrangements to forward our mail matters after us. So you should continue to address Fortress Monroe-

Kiss and embrace all the children for me

Yours affectionately

Tho^s Welsh

ⁱ On November 19 1861 the 45th embarked for Fortress Monroe, where it remained at Camp Hamilton until Dec.6. It then sailed for Port Royal, South Carolina

ⁱⁱ Austin Curtin was commissioned a Captain in Company D 9/15/1861. He was mustered out 10/20/1864. He died in Vicksburg, Mississippi 11/25/1911. He was 77.

John Irwin Curtin born 6/17/1837 in Eagle Forge, Centre County was commissioned a Captain in Company A. He was promoted Major 7/30/1862, Lieutenant Colonel 9/4/1862, Colonel 4/13/1863 & Brigadier General by Brevet 10/12/1864. Curtin was mustered out in Alexandria, Virginia 7/17/1865 and died 1/1/1911 in Bellefonte, Pennsylvania.

Scope and Content Note:

Fragment of a handwritten letter from Thomas Welsh most likeley intended for Annie Welsh. The letter fragment contains news from camp; a discussion of the acceptance by his men of discipline, temperance, drilling, etc.; a visit by Govenor Curtin's brother to visit his two sons, and the expectation of his next posting. The letter identifies him as "45" in the letters published in the Columbia Spy. Note: Although the letter fragment is not dated, its content clearly establishes its origin in Camp Hamilton, November 1861. This is a transcription of the original letter.

