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Document: *Letter from Thomas Welsh to Annie Welsh (wife)*

Camp Opposite Fredericksburg Va
January 27th 1863

My Dear Wife:

I herewith enclose check payable to your order- for \$381⁶⁹ which the Pay Master had the kindness to send me from Washington for my services as Colonel during the two months of November-& December 1862. That makes my pay in full to January 1st 1863.

Our troops will not be paid until after 1st of March as the Pay Master are engaged in paying up to 1st November 1862- My Reg^t having received pay several weeks ago for Sept & October-, were of course ahead of most of the other regiments- but will now have to wait like all others until after March 1st when 4 months pay will be due them. The Pay-Master had a little money left and he thought as I was very poor- he would send me the check for my pay for the two months. I would much rather he could have paid the men, but of course he could not.

I was much pained at the removal of General Burnside- he and Rosecrans & Butler are the only Generals in our whole Army in whom I have full confidence- they are loyal & honest- Hooker, Sumner, Franklin, Porter & the others are all tarred with the one stick.- they are selfish enough to sacrifice Army & Country for their own aggrandizement. General Burnside is loyal to his Country- and if he had not been bound by the Generals in his army would have done well- I blame him just a little for not removing the whole set of them- but perhaps Abe wouldn't let him.

Hooker is like Geary & Birney- all gas- at least I am afraid so. For the sake of our good old Country we will give him or any other commander our hearty support. I wrote to David some days ago and requested him to send me a list of stocks money etc in his care for you. I received his reply with list yesterday- I find you have about \$4000 worth. I trust you still to keep up the Life Insurance – and the Insurance on House & Furniture. I mean to try very hard in the course of February or March to get leave of absence for 20 or 30 days in order to have time enough at home to settle up all our business affairs so that we can know how we stand and be on safe footing. Did you know that Sam Eberlein claims a pretty large bill against us for groceries? Are you still purchasing these on credit

Colonel Leasureⁱ went home today on ten days leave of absence but I suppose he will stay 30, his absence leaves me in command of the Brigade- so that I could not expect a leave- until his return- Colonel Curtinⁱⁱ expects to get leave today- and will probably start tomorrow for home- Dr. Styerⁱⁱⁱ started for his new reg^t – the 179th this morning- as we have no Doctor now- of course we have no sick.

I am very well- standing weight 191.

I suppose you seen that Col. Fisher^{iv} is a General- I am glad that he was successful. It seems that Hambright^v & Welsh were unsuccessful- I suppose they are not fit or do not deserve promotion- Well, I suppose poor Hambright & the Express will be chagrined enough to swear- but Welsh has the satisfaction of knowing that he is appreciated in his own Regiment as a Colonel- And I suppose the President thinks it best to have some good Colonels- If the Express does the sympathetic over Hambright- send me slips for amusement.

Several Colonels in this Corps expected stars. And are very much out of humor- I sympathize with them deeply- and advise them to wait awhile.



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I wrote to you some weeks ago to invest Mr Franks gold in treasury notes- Did you receive the letter?

Are you all well? And comfortable?

I also wrote to send me Cards of the children & self in Album- Please do so.

I would love dearly to see you and the children. Kiss all of them for Papa.

Your affectionate

Husband

Thos Welsh

Please acknowledge receipt of this check

Immediately

T W

ⁱ Daniel Leasure was born March 18 1819 in Mt Pleasant, Westmoreland Co. Pennsylvania. He was a 42 year old Physician from New Castle when he enlisted April 25 1861 at Lawrence County as a 1st Lieutenant & Adjutant of the 12th Pennsylvania Infantry and promoted Captain of Company H July 1. Leasure was mustered out August 5 and on August 31 was commissioned Colonel into the 100th Pennsylvania Infantry. He was wounded at 2ND Bull Run 8/29/1862 and Spotsylvania Court House May 12 1864. He was promoted Brigadier General by Brevet April 18 1865. Leasure was mustered out August 30 1864 and after the War lived in Lawrence County. He died October 4 1886 in St Paul, Minnesota and is buried in Greenwood Cemetery in New Castle. Leasure's 1st wife was Isabel Hamilton; he later married Nancy White Warden (widow of Major Robert Warden of the 28th Pennsylvania Infantry who died of disease at Winchester, Virginia June 30 1862).

ⁱⁱ John Irwin Curtin was born June 17 1837 in Eagle Forge, Centre County, Pennsylvania and was 24 when he enlisted as a Captain and commissioned into Company A 45th Pennsylvania Infantry on August 16 1861. He was promoted Major July 30 1862, Lieutenant Colonel September 4 1862, Colonel April 13 1863 & Brigadier General (by Brevet) October 12 1864. Curtin was mustered out July 17 1865 at Alexandria, Virginia and died January 1 1911 in Bellefonte, Pennsylvania.

ⁱⁱⁱ Charles Styer born in Pennsylvania enlisted August 1 1862 as an Assistant Surgeon of the 45th Pennsylvania Infantry and was promoted Surgeon January 12 1863. On the 13th of January he transferred into the 179th Pennsylvania and on February 1 1863 he transferred into the 99th Pennsylvania Infantry. Styer was dismissed on May 1 1863 but had subsequent service in the US Army from October 9 1867 until June 30 1878. Dr Styer later became member of GAR Post #8 (General E.D. Baker) in Philadelphia and held the following offices: National Surgeon General for 1882, Post Commander for 1881, Department of Pennsylvania Medical Director for 1880 7 Post Surgeon. He died July 6 1896.

^{iv} Welsh is probably referring to Joseph Washington Fisher from Northumberland County in Pennsylvania who was a Colonel at the time this letter is written but had not received rank of Brigadier General until 11/4/1865. There was also Benjamin Franklin Fisher from Spring Mills, Centre County Pennsylvania, who became a Brigadier General 3/13/1865, but he was still only a captain at this time.

^v Welsh may be referring to Colonel Henry Hambright, of the 79th Pennsylvania Infantry, who was from Lancaster, Pennsylvania and was not made a Brigadier General until 6/7/1865.



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