

Object ID: *MG0828_SeriesD-63_F17*

Document: *Letter to Alice February 4th 1863*

Transcript:

Camp of 45th Regt Penn^a Vols.
February 4th 1863

My Dear Daughter:

I received your letter also one from Mamma – one from Lillie and one from Master B. C. I assure you my dear child, that all of them were very welcome. I had a great time trying to read Lillie's & Blantons letters, but I guess I know all they wanted to tell me tell them to write soon again. General Hooker has adopted a rule by which a good many officers and soldiers can get to visit home he allows two men out of every one hundred to go home at one time to stay ten days. After they return then two men more can go. &c. Two officers from each Regiment can also go in the same way. I thought it would be right to let those go who had wives and children at home whom they had not seen since they left Pennsylvania Sixteen months ago. Capt. Hill and Lieut. Gavin and eight-men are going to-morrow morning, they all have little children at home, and not having seen them for such a long time – makes me think there will be great joy in their homes. Don't you think so?

The boys of Company "K" all agreed that Ruben Weaver should be the one to go out of their Company. His family lives in Marietta. I don't know who will be the next one, but we will give the married men the preference.

I am afraid it will be a good while before my time comes as only one Brigade Commander out of nine can go at a time and as Col. Leasure is at home and I am commanding the 3rd Brigade – it may be a good while before I can go. I will try however, to get off as soon as possible as I am extremely anxious to be at home and see all of you again.

We are all well, and you can tell the friends of the boys that all of them are in good health. Mr. McClure has not yet returned, neither has Dr. Christ or Col. Curtin. Dr. Gibson, our Chaplain, is in Philad^a sick – he is almost too old to be in the Army. Sergt Roath went home several days ago. I suppose he has been to see you, he got his Furlough from the Secretary of War for 20 days before Genl Hooker rule was in force. Mamma requested me to send a Card Photograph to Miss S. Houston – Please hand her this one with my love &c. I hope she is well – and that she will accept the Photograph with which to remember an old soldier.

Tell Mamma that she can get them at McCleer in Philadelphia at any time. The boys of Company "E" have just received seventy of them to send to their friends in Centre County. I guess I will be pretty well known at that rate, don't you think so? I wonder how Mrs. Lockard heard that 30 of our men deserted? Only one man deserted from our



LancasterHistory

Regt. He was Sergt. Horne, who had got drunk, and was reduced to the ranks - he did not relish that and so run away. I am glad he is gone, as we get along very well without him. James Lockard is very well.

I was sorry to hear that my dear little Effie was sick. I suppose she receive my letter and that was better than Medicine for her.

How did Lillie like her book? Does Blanton grow much. Kiss all of them for me – tell Mazie to write – tell all and everybody to write to me – Give my love to all acquaintances.

Write soon and often.

Your affectionate
Papa
Tho^s Welsh

Scope and Content:

Handwritten letter from Thomas Welsh to his daughter, Alice. From Camp of 45th Regt. Penna. Vols. Letter discusses new leave rule put in place by General Hooker to allow more officers and soldiers to visit home and that it may be some time until he can leave since he is in command of the 3rd Brigade. Welsh reports that all are doing well in camp, but notes that a number of men have deserted. Asks family to write and sends love and kisses to all.

