Rockers Island Jan 23, 61

Dear Sisters it is some time since I have heard from you.

I am well and hope that this may find you. I have the same I left Albany the next day after the regiment landed. I stayed in my three days and then we came here. It is about 13 miles up the East River. It is a small island of about 23 acres. We ran about as much as we are a mind to. I gathered some clams and oysters and made some soup. That was good soup. We have comfortable quarters as could be expected and good fare except the coffee. That is not good it was pretty stormy the other day and a sloop was blown ashore. The men were all saved and came to our break to stay a steamer came.
near it about nine o'clock and our officers told the men to be ready to go and save all they could if she came on shore but she saved herself I took some cold could by going down to the wreck in the same boat I guess I will not be sick much we have just heard that we were going to leave here in a few days if we by apples we have to pay $0.60 a piece and 18 cents a quarter for pie but I don't know I sent $5 dollars by the captain to my for to get a check to send to Russell I forgot to say that we were paid off the other day $7,300.00 was paid to me all from Georgetown are well
Excuse this miserable writing for I am curled up in the cold and I can't get the light. Please write as soon as you get this and see if you can not make it more interesting than mine. And tell me all the news and how you and Mother get along. Give my respects to your #1 scholars and I want to see letters in one this time and long ones to good night yours truly from your brother.

William H. Brown
Ps direct to me New York
76 regiment Co D
Co D 76 regiment in care of Capt Watrous
Camp Casey Maryland<br>
Saturday Feb 15th 1862

Dear Sister why why do I not hear from you oftener. I have received but four letters since we were at Albany from any one. We are now settled in Camp. It has been warm and pleasant most of the time since we have been here. When it pleasant we go out and drill with our Rifles to hear. At a time it snows pretty. This four o'clock for this place. So we do not have to drill today. It is a little past Valentine's day but I thought that what is enclosed in this letter would be acceptable as enny. I could find I heard today that there was an Ambrotype noon in the Brigade so I
Took my rifle and accoutrements and went and got my likeness. Taken I stood up with my gun at what is called ordered arms arms with the bayonet fired on if you take off the copper from the plate you can see the end of the bayonet and judge something of the length of it, it can be used as a sword and is carried by the side the same you can see the sheath on the left side. The small box on the right side near the gun is to put gun caps in. The strap over the shoulder is for the cartridge box it is nearly out of sight and under the right arm. There now I have described myself perhaps you would not know me if I did not say hands
we can see if they do look
black if we get another suit
when we are paid again I
said am going to get another
one taken I guess that Delian
had better come along pretty
soon if he is coming at all but
it is nothing to me I cannot
think of much more write as
soon as you get this for when I
write again it will when I
got one from home you may
think me severe but I can
not help it I like to hear from
home as well as you like to
hear from me have Mother
write to yours truly good by
from your brother

William H. Brown
Direct the same as before.
Fort Slocum
April 30th, 61

Dear Sister,

The little box of presents came to hand last night and you can feel assured it met a welcome reception with us. If certainly did not make me sick as Mother seemed to fear it would. I am feeling first rate tonight though we have had a pretty hard drill to day. We marched over to headquarters spot at Mass about a mile with knapsacks, haversacks and canteens on besides our arms where we
inspected by
some staff
officer I don't
know what
was we were
masterd for pay
(That our names were called
by the Captain to know
if they were all there)
we have not got our pay
yet we have expected it
so long I don't know when
it will come but I guess
it won't be long I hope
you will soon get a ched
I think Conelia has got
improved the most in
writing perhaps you
don't think so but it
looks so to me you can
not think how nice we
do get along now Milton
is living with us now.

The boys look in now and
then and call us the happy
family and the little love
taken that came yester
year to remind us of home and
friends put new life into our hearts you can
not think how a little
happiness (however small)
is prized here any
thing if it came from
home I am sorry and
Lydia has got hurt but
I guess you have not seen
very intimate this
winter so you would have
heard from Emma before
now give my thanks to
The gentle contributors
to the best know how
Grandpa get along this
spring I wrote a letter
To him last winter but have not rec'd an answer yet. Mother said she was going to have some trees set out in front of the house I wish some of the pine trees that grow here were there. They would be so satisfactory. I am ready to go to the Wedge come there I shall come there to and to tell you how we live there write and tell me yours truly God by from your brother what is W H B"
Fredrickburg, June 10th, 62

Dear Mother and Sister,

I read in your letter the other day and answered it but we have had some adventures since.

The next day after I wrote we had a flood here that swept all the bridges near the town away with the rest of them. The boats all went down stream and some as far as 10 miles down my boat went about a mile no lines were lost.
The company was scattered along the river both sides. We are now quartered in a large brick building in the city. I am on guard last night as C of orderly with five prisoners they were Gavilas. Today our provost guard searched a building where we found a British flag. They found several things, officers' trunks and boxes marked USS and master.
prices  
Eggs  
Milk qt  
Butter pd  

roles This after noon the pickets brought in a Major of the Rebel Army as prisoners our Major is military Governor of and Frederick'sburg he is after them scarce =11th all from Georgetown are well as usual Some one has locked all my stamps but like if you will send me five or six when we get a chance East to get some I will send you them back we cannot get them here at all I got a good letter from Russell with a receipt for the money I don't think what close to Willard's say about things
Some of the boys have had heard that he has circulated false reports about us is it true we I would like to know how does Mr. Webster get along. The 61st N.Y. Inf. have been in a hard fight and suffered severely but they did not flinch but I cannot think more to write now if I were there I could tell you a great many things that I would not think to write write soon and send the stamps so I can answer it yours from your love William H. Brown
Fredericksburg, June 19

Dear Sister, I read your welcome letter a few minutes ago and hasten to answer it. You tell me we left the city day before yesterday the 4th Wis regt relieved us we are now encamped on a hill about a mile S. of the river all the boys are well as usual I don't what to write that would interest you. I am glad to hear you have got a good school give Mr. Hugh Stuart my respects and ask Malcom if he has forgot Mr. John Billy 20th Capt. Green don Sigs Webber Cangit all his pay
he told Milton that he would write to him. I am glad to hear that our cousin is so good a soldier and that he has come off well so far. We hope to go to Richmond the next time we move. I have not heard from the 61st 20th I know but little about it, but that they had a s网络科技 fights what is the mean name of the flower you sent me. We have to drill now everyday for some ice. We have had all the strawberries and cherries we wanted. I expect they are not ripe here yet. They are mostly gone here.
I found that little missive enclosed now dont be angry but I had to read it before yours yours you found the family sheets this time I hope you will find these every time I do not feel very much like writing but I love to hear from home so I must write there is so much to occilate and mind here I cannot think of what to write as I wrote as you get this from your brother

William H. Brown

direct as before

have the box pelaim
Camp beside
Fredericksburg
July 5th 1862

Friend,
your kind letter came to
hand the third inst. I
was very glad to hear from
you. It was a fine
elephant day the fourth
but I was unable to enjoy
it in consequence of
having pain in the
head all day, but I
am better to day you will
think I am coming long
considerable
but I am not.

,
one it certainly is a severe thing to think of how our soldiers suffer at times but I hope that by trying to follow your kind advice that I may be able to go through all with a firm heart.

July 9th I guess you will think this a transitory walk under a peculiar time so but I could not help it this time. we had
Service yesterday our Colonel addressed us and read a few chapters in the Bible. I think he is a good man (his first name is W. P. Wainwright). I did not spell right. It is W. P. Wainwright. I shall have to try harder and do better next time and spell better and blot my paper less. I do not feel like writing. I want to write something but I cannot think of anything. That you would care to hear from me. I put the stamp for free as well please don't show this. The writing looks so bad if you read it you'll do well.
but when one gets down on
the ground to write it is some
difference from not quite
so good as to have a desk to
sit in and write I must write
a few lines to Mother now
so good by for this time
write soon and I will
look for the face in it
W.F.B
Odd Fellows Hall Hospital  
Washington D.C  
November 14th 1862  

My Dear Sister,

I received your kind letter last night and a dear good letter it was to and coming as it did just as I was suffering under a quite a disappointment in not getting my pay with the rest here at the hospital. By the carelessness of the assistant steward my name was not put on the roll so I was not mustered and consequently could not get my pay but I shall try other means to get it as soon as I can. I went up town the day to do some business for a man in the hospital and was gone nearly all day when I came back the first thing was Brown. There is a letter for you away I went and got it. And, oh, what a comfort, it was a good send just as I was most down hearted. Dear sister how I love these letters, they are the greatest comfort I have. And by this time I guess you know how to appreciate good news from home and Conelia to the wrote one dear good letter I was glad to hear you were both getting along so well in your studies (did I spell that right?) I wish I was
going to school myself and if ever I get out of this place I think I will feel the need of it every day. You wanted I should describe the surroundings of my position here. When I am in bed I cannot see out at all from the windows near the one at my head (which is at the north side of the building) standing it is a weeping willow. From the window at my right hand (I am in the corner) I look out on a back street and a bit of common on which is pitched a large round tent that the guards of the hospital stay in. On the inside the bone is on my right long rows of beds to rows spread down the middle of the room and row along the wall each side with an aisle betwixt like a church. A coal stove in the opposite corner with a group of patients around it where there is a fine chance to study human nature in that group of tried men some with stern cold faces far samples of this could hard world others laughing and thoughtless altogether it is not a very unpleasant group in the other corner at the further end are two old Lads (nurses) one an old man about 40 though I suppose he would not own he was over thirty. The other is a widow Lady between 50 and 60 she has been a nurse in the Army since before the Mexican war she was in Mexico with
Sea, Scott's army in the Florida war acting as the soldiers, laundries and armor for her husband being with her and a soldier to she called herself an old soldier. She says she has seen more service than we have and heard of now if you can imagine how it looks hear in this great room with its rows of beds with there neat white bedspreads all looking as neat as possible. And up over the front door built in the wall is the Musitans gallery for the ball was for a dancing hall the front doors are double and the clock on the post between them with the letter box under it. There I have done my best to describe it my patron and rather my surroundings. Odd Fellow's Hall enclosed I send you a piece the Chaplain wrote about the 76th Colar Sarea at south mountain fight I helped lay him in his grave in the ranks we were only to files apart it is all right except the rebels had no defences thrown up on the mountains. The Chaplain was not there or he would have known better. The dinner bell is ringing and I shall have to go or soonest so good by for this time from your brother.

William H. Brown
I forgot to tell you that we have meetings here nearly every night and good men to;

tomorrow night we have a tent encamp

meeting a quite a number have signed

the pledge

Y B
Camden Street Hospital
Baltimore Md.
November 27th, 1861

My Dear Sister Through the kindness of the Lady I have just got paper enough to write you a letter you will perhaps be surprised at my being in Baltimore last Monday I was sent off with a lot of others from Washington to make room for others from the field they are coming in fast now sick and wounded. The fall weather is pretty bad for the army and I thank God I am not in the field and I hope I never will be again we had another tiresome journey we got to the cars about eleven o’clock and arrived there about dark. There was about eight or nine hundred in all on the train of sick and wounded men we expected to go to Philadelphia when we started but were disappointed if we had went there I believe I could have got home from there with a furlough if nothing more. It is Thanksgiving day here today. The Ladys say we are going to have some thing good to eat today but it is nearly twelve and I see no signs of it yet. We are a little differently situated here from what we were at Washington a little cooler with four airs
in it and a neat fire place which throws out a cheerful blaze.

Oh! the dinner dinner has come and it is a dinner to potate nicely masked leaf beet roast turkey with stuffing toasted bread oysters squash pie peach preserves and jelly of some kind or other — all to gather you can imagine we had a good dinner and thank the kind Ladies of Baltimore for it, if indeed they were of Baltimore. I hope you will enjoy yourself to day. I hope you had more than a good dinner. I had nothing else Mary. I shall have to ask you for a half a dollar. I have not a cent to get my clothes washed with if you have not got it to spare don't send it but if you have don't I will pay you if I ever get my pay. I am not in a mood for writing today so please excuse this short letter and I will try and do better next time. Tell me how you spent Thanksgiving if you have not answered my last letter send you can do so now and I will get it. I must write another little epistle to enclose with this so goodbye for this time from your brother,

Win H Brown

Direct William H Brown
War Sec No 79 Camden St Hospital
Not in Ward 7 Baltimore MD
Dear Sister Mary when shall I hear from you it has been a long time since I received a letter from you. I am still at $4$ Baltimore yesterday they examined a quite a number to send to their regiments in the morning he put my name down but the Surgeon in charge had it took off again so I will stay a little longer I don't know when I will go my foot is healed up but it hurts me to wear a shoe yet I have not received a letter from you since November the 10th have you not written since then.
I received a letter from Mother dated the 20th. That is the last I heard Emily was sick in the any letter. How do you and C get along at school. How do you like your map drawing I should like to see some of yours. Them but I will have to wait till I get home. If I ever do get there I guess I will stay for I do not like to travel to the Males to here from friends for I can not here when I want to. It is bright and pleasant here to day but I do not go out doors more than I can help. I have found that commenced reading 10 chapters a day it will take 26 days to read the new
Testament through so I read every day. This is the third letter to you and know answer yet the other to had each one for Cornelia please write and let me know whether you need them or not write both of you when you get this for I wish to here from you.

Your Brother HB

Ps Horace Stuart AT Home yet
Dear Brother your kind letter reached me to day it
seems that it took my letter some time to get to you. I received
a letter a number of days ago containing the money and a letter
from Ed and one from you. I have sent to Odd Felloes Hall for those
letters some time ago but have not got them yet and unless
I am moved or some such thing I will get all you send me but don't find
much I will try and get along with as little as possible. I got a letter
from Milton a few days ago in which he very kindly offered
to send me some money if I want but I did not tell him to send me
any though of course I would
like to have money I might do
like some here spend all my
pay and have nothing to show
for it for but I am not so incline
I wish to get along with as little
as possible I am of glad to hear
that my old school mates are so
well employd most of them at
least tell Milton if he can get that
Dollar of Willard I would like to
have him do it and then get him
due to his regiment for they
need him there. Will can make
him pay I guess I am glad the
meatings are have so good an apect
I think I shall go to church to
morrow I went out yesterday and was
invited to go if it is not to could I
U.S. General Hospital
Ward 2, House 19, Fordon St.
Baltimore, December 22nd, 1862

My dear sister, I could not resist the desire to write and wish you a happy Christmas when I go out in to the street. I see all around me preparations being made to celebrate the time when all care is lade aside (or supposed to be at least) and naught but pleasure reigns yet the merry Christmas is near at hand. How long is it since I spent a Christmas day at home? My memory, sister dear, I think it's not since we called the old farm home our home. I mean the one that stood upon the hill where one could see for miles around. What did Old Santy bring us then? I think if I remember right he brought a Compost or would that I could get one now. That would not fade but outware grim time. List sister do you understand the Compost? I wish will it not ware if worn aware if my Bible tells me true it will.
And the Sabbath school festival you will enjoy what I neglected when a boy neglected to suitable place. I guess you will think my letter strange but perhaps I am not same. My head does whistle in a maze sometimes. I think I'm half-half way crazy. But this is idle talk. don't let care or sorrow drive away the joy that should be on Christmas day when you get this letter please write and tell me how you spent the Christmas holy days. This letter is a compound of random thoughts that fill through my brain after eating a hearty supper in the hospital to you see the effect of hospital fare.

Good night, Mary

[Signature]
Fall of 1862?

U.S. General Hospital
W. & No. 19 Camden St.
Baltimore, Md.

My dear Stepfather,

As I was writing to mother, I thought I would address you upon a few lines and get you to explain to me a few chapters or verdes in the New Testament for I am at a little variance with a man that roomed with me about the 21st and 22nd verses of the 21st Chapter of John in the 21st Chapter Verse 11 thought it refer to the deceple that Jesus loved (or Thomas) and described him by referring back to what he had done that it might be understood who was sent by the deceple whom he loved and in
the 22 verse first. Jesus answer to Peter. I thought it was rather evasive as much as to say it was not for him to know what that manly should do but to follow him and what was meant by his following him whether it was in the act physically or spiritually of following him at that that time please let us know your opinion about it or consult a commentary and see if it says anything about it for we would like to know yours with respect from your disinterested P.B. Thomas A.B. Young please write and you will oblige us
U. S. Steamer Memphis  
November 2

Dear Sister Mary,

We arrived at the above named Port at about 3 o'clock this afternoon. We left New York on the evening of the 20th, without any loading, and with but a few tons of coal in our bunkers. Just before we left we went along side of the old sloops of war, Portsmouth and took on board about a hundred boxes of condemned shell, to throw on board as soon as we got out side. The night was dark and foggy and the wind blowing a gale from the north west, which was far for us so we set all the sail the ship would have and lead on long at a great rate. I think we must have traveled at the rate of fourteen or fifteen miles an hour. As soon as we were well out side they commenced to throw the shell over they were shells that were dangerous to land so there could be nothing done with them but throw them away. I should like to have what they cost the Government, it would be a good round sum, sum for part of them were fifteen inch. That is 15 inches in diameter.
and had a bursting charge of 15 lbs of powder. Soon after the shell was overboard I turned in to my bunk. But not to sleep for the ship being so light that if anything the motion was more violent than the last time we went out. At about eleven o'clock just as I had got into a doze or had got to sleep I was suddenly awakened by a snipping and thrashing that made me think something was the matter. I soon found out by the noise that the fife sheets had parted just than the Boat swam. Mate hung out that the foretopmast was carried away. Then there was such a hubbub that I could not get to sleep again till after one o'clock. And I thanked my stars that I was not a deck hand to have to work up there in the cold wind and rain. The next morning when I turned out we were in the Lea. The Pilot said we were off the Delaware breakwater but the fog was so thick we could not run in. We now were obliged to get up coal that was stowed in the after hold for ballast, but it was all we
had and we must keep the engine going in order to save the ship. At four o'clock P.M. the wind hauled round to the north west and soon cleared up so that about midnight we anchored inside the Blake Water all safe. at day light this morning we got under weigh again bound up the river during the four hours we went down our fore top sail yard and what was left of our fore topsmast so that we looked quite snug by the time we got up here. On our way up I saw the wharf at Chester where I fell over board and broke my ribs about twenty months ago when I was at work on board the str. Diamond. Well I don't know what we are going to do now but I hear tonight that we were going to come up here and go back again to New York, as the ship we came to tow back is not ready and will not be for some time yet. I hope to find several letters there when we get back. Did you get that picture of the Union that I sent you. I am well. Please give any regards to all inquiring friends and I will bid you good night. Yours with a Brothers love.

Henry.
U.S. Mr. Memphis

During the night of the 20th November 1863

By our Special Artist.
Dear Sister Mary. We arrived here this morning about ten o'clock, all safe and well. We left Port Royal last Thursday, we have taken things rather easy this trip, and have not hurried much, we had very calm weather all the way from New York here. If I ever get home you will have a chance to know how I passed my time this trip, as I intend to write down most of what transpires at least as much as I have a hand in, for it will be something to look over some time, should I ever live to quit the sea. Yesterday while running along the Florida coast, about three miles off shore, we struck bottom. I was standing near my door, speaking to our pay master when the ship struck so violently as to nearly throw me off my feet. I looked over the side, and could see the bottom quite plain, we did not stop but change our course, and soon got in to deeper water though not without to or three thumps before we got clear. At the time
we struck we were heading directly towards a reef & less than a mile distant. It was some one's fault but whose I do not know, at any rate the sailing Master got the blame, and was subjected to a severe reprimand from the Captain. Billy just came to the door and says remember me to her to send your respects as a friend of your brother. When he spoke he did not know who I was writing to and put off duty as sailing Master. But all this will not interest you. We are now lying hard and fast in the sand, about two hundred yards from the beach, and about a ship's length (260 feet) from the jetty (a wharf built out on piles from the beach) where we always go to discharge our cargo, and take coal. I am not certain but I think we will get off with the next high tide. Will Mary & have told you as well as I can all about our situation, so I will try and think of something else. When I get back to New York I expect to find several letters and among them to or three from my sister Mary. There will be plenty of time for we do not expect to get there before the middle of next month. And I want you to write all about how things are getting
along there, where you live or whether you have moved at all or not. Have you bought a place or not. How do you get along for wood and other necessaries I intended to send you some money, and had reserved some on purpose to send. But a friend Mr. Smith came on board and wanted some money very bad, and said he could pay me in time so that I could send it to you, so I let him have it. The day before we sailed he came on board with his hand in a sling and told me he had not got it, he having sawed his hand the Monday previous had not been able to work since. I gave him an envelope directed to you and he said he would send it to you as soon as he could. get it. So if you receive it, let me know when you write. Please remember me to all inquiring friends, give my love to all our folks, and except this with a brother's love, from

Henry

P.S. Send you a short letter from Port Royal
it was a pull by one or two men he is in Gen. Shields division he had just packed up to march back to Winchester. I expect he has helped white jack Jason again did Mr. Whitmore get those allotment bills I sent him to Twenty dollars each I have told Lieut. Vandevyke about Mr. Webber and he said he would write to him I think if he is with the regt next pay muster he will get his pay
we have to stand guard every other day and I do not feel much like writing is Willard Merrill in town yet it is time he was here we are all well except I took a little cold which makes me cough some I should like to visit your school right well but I do not think I can this summer but I shall come some time did you give off my letter I had not heard from home since I eliarn came
Till yesterday when one came with one enclosed for Milton I saw John Barrie and Jack J. Bain the other day they were marching through the city and stopped to rest I had just begun to talk with them when the order was given to fall in and I had leave them but I must close write soon and often for I do not get them all good night from your brother William H. Brown write me all the news and what else Willard say about the war