

U. S. Military Academy  
West Point - Dec. 1<sup>st</sup> - 1849

Dear Brother

I received your kind letter of the 26<sup>th</sup> ult. this morning, and I can assure you that I was truly happy to see it, as I had not heard from home for quite a long time. As you supposed, I have been very busily engaged with my studies, and that is the reason why I have delayed so long in writing to you. I might, however, have written to you much sooner, but when I was not engaged with my studies, I felt so little like writing, and not having anything new to say, I kept putting it off from time to time. Indeed I find it extremely difficult to write often, without writing nearly the same things in all my letters.

We have had very fine weather this fall, it is, however, getting quite cold now, but keeps clear and dry, I wish it would snow, so as to stop dress parades, and guard-mounting on the plain, for I find it quite disagreeable to stand in ranks facing the wind these cold evenings.

I am very glad to hear that Newark is improving so fast, and I hope that you will succeed in getting the central rail-road through it. I have been hoping all along that the road to Mansfield would be done by the time I come home, but if it is not finished until the fourth of July I shall have to ride from Cleaveland

in the stage, which I do not like very much. I think that I shall be able to reach home by the first of July.

I still continue to get along in my studies very well. We have got over ~~my~~<sup>our</sup> course and reviewed it once and on Monday we commence the general review. We have been going over ~~the~~ spherical projections, <sup>and warped surfaces</sup> in Descriptive Geometry, and shades and shadows, at a very rapid pace. We generally took from twelve to eighteen pages out a lesson. The Jan examination will commence in about four weeks, for my part I do not have any fears, but that I shall do well, for I understand my course first-rate.

I am glad that Mary & Eliza are learning to ride, for I think it is quite an accomplishment for a young lady to know how to ride well. I have not been on a horse since I left home, and do not expect to be until I return. I hope Father will have a good riding horse for I want to ride a good deal while I am on furlough.

The Christmas holidays are fast approaching and I have not got a cent of money. I wish you would send me a little if you can spare it as well as not, but if you have not got it, do not put yourself to any trouble to procure it, for I would rather do without than to put you to any trouble.

Excuse my short letter and write as often as you can, and I will endeavor to be more punctual in future. Give my love to all our family.

2.  
Mr. Wm B. Woods  
Newark Ohio

Truly your Brother

Chas R Woods  
West Point N.Y.