



The Heritage Center
of The Union League of Philadelphia

William Thacher Letters,
Transcriptions
Catalog Number: 1805.003.312

The Heritage Center of The Union League of Philadelphia
140 South Broad Street
Philadelphia, PA 19102
www.ulheritagecenter.org
foundations@unionleague.org
(215) 587-6455

Camp Simmons

Harrisburg Nov 4th /62

Dear Mother

I received your letter Friday night But could not read it until morning as I was on guard The weather has been verry pleasant lately I am well and all the rest of the boys from our way Mother have you got my clothes yet that I sent home We are confined verry close here now since we have been formed into a regiment We have got our requisition mad out for our horses arms

Pg 2)

and equipment But I cannot tell how long it may be before we will get them Andrew Backus is 7th Seargent Charles Sandbourn has been reduced from Quarter Master to a privet But he has left our company and joined the regular army he got drunk was the reason of putting him out of office I will give you list of the prices of a few things here Butter is worth 30 cts per lbs Cheese 16 Milk 8 cts per qt and apples that you think is not fit hardly to give to the hogs (?) 2 and 3 cts per piece Apple Butter 12 cts per pt this is the prices we soldiers have to pay for things Pies and cakes are selling at a reasonable price send me some stamp when you write we have not got a cent of pay since we have been in Harrisburg and if I do not get some pay before long I shall join the regular Army where I will get some 2 more of our men have just joined the regular army hardly any of the men like the Capt I must close here

Write soon

Affectionately Yours

Wm Thacher

Camp Casey Washington Jan 2nd 1863

Dear Mother

I take this opportunity of writing you a few lines We received the box you sent yesterday evening and opened it for our New Years Supper The things were all in the nicest of order I found my watch in my stocking but it will not go Dear Mother I am very thankful for the thing you sent me they are worth to me their weight in gold We are all well as usual Mother you must not worry

Pg 2)

your self about me & not believe the rumours you hear as they are not any of them true I was down to Georgetown Christmas & had a nice Turkey dinner at the Hospitable I went down to see some of our boys their in the Hospitable Georgetown James(?) outo Wash it is separated by a creek I have been down to Wash several times & have been in the Capital it is a splendid building built of Marble I was in the Senate chamber & in the House of Rep they are both splendide chambers Tell Wallace that I heard last night that he was married to Mary Jane Henton

I have not got any money from birth He owes me for them buskins gloves you sent me before he keep them & I cant get the pay for them as he has no money the money you sent me is the first I have had since I has been in this camp you kneed not send me any more unless I write for it as we are expect our pay soon We are having very nice weather hear now Tell Sarah that I have never got any letter from her yet I had a letter from Hellen since I last wrote to you she said Uncle Luckers had been very sick but was better when she wrote I had a letter from Perry & Caroletter they said the folks were all well They say we are to march tomorrow but Mother

don't be uneasy as I think we wont go for some say we are going back to Pa to guard the state but don't be uneasy I will write as soon as we get ther if we go may be we wont go the orders may be countermanded we have had marching three (?) four times be fore but they have been changed be fore we got started I can think of no more at present

Write soon Yours

Affectionately Wm Thacher

I will write oftener than

I have before the reason that

I had not written be for I was

Waiting for the box Wm

Camp 16th Pa Cav

Sulphur Springs Verginea

Aug 13th /63

Dear Perrents

Having a few spare moments I thought I would improve them by writing a few lines to you I have just got in off Picket we have Been out on picket three days We had a very good time & saw plenty of rebbs a good many deserts every day & comes over t our lines & a great many of them takes the oath of Allegience & goes North The weather long back has been extremely Hot it is hot enough t melt any one in the shade doeing nothing But for all the Hot weather we have verry little sickness in camp We get green corn new potatoes & ripe apples & all such things on pickets & bsides we have mutton fresh pork fresh beef Chickens Turkeys &c, &c I tell you things in generall have to suffer This morning three men of our Regiment was captured while on a scout they were on the advance of the scouting party & got some distance ahead when six rebels dashed out bhind them & captured them without firing a shot They were captured in Amosville the place where we lived a short time time since we are enpeshing(?) new recruits on for our regiment

Every day I will be glad to see our regiment full once more our regt haint more than one forth as le(?) as it was when we first came out We are looking anciously every day for Andrew Backus(?) He will find soldering haint so nice as staying at home he neve has done any duty of any acount He never was on picket yet But I think by the time he is here a Month we can show him the difference between Twiddle dee dee & Twiddle dee dum Bob & Billy Blen are with the Capt & Lieut yet but I think they will have to come in the Co before long as they will soon alow officers enlisted men for waiters Bob is complaining t day of Being somewhat sick but is not verry Bad I gues The army of the Potomac seems t be on the stand still first now & gues they are waiting for a little cooler weather befor they begin apprations again I think it a good plan for it is t warm t do much just now We are getting good rations for our horses & they are recruiting up verry fast & by the time our regt gets filled up we will be ready t do something The rebbs are living in the mountains & it will take some hot work to get them out of them When you write again send me some postage stamps as I am about out We expect our pay but May be we wont get it but that would be just our luck I will have to close here Answer soon I remain as ever

Truly Yours

Wm Thacher

March 13th /64

Dear Mother

Your kind letter was duly reed I was glad to hear that you were all getting along so well I am well The reason of my not Writing before is because I got my wrist cut quite bad with a saber but it is most well now but this is the first writing I have done since it was cut We are having very fine weather hear now Part of our regiment that was out with Killpatric got in late last night our regt only lost one man the requests for our Co come in most every day We have the largest Co now in the Regt I only got one pr of socks in the box guess you hadent better send me an other box for fear I wont get it I shall have to close for my wrist hurts so bad I cant write

So good by

W Thacher

Camp of 16th Pa cavalry

Near City Point Va

July 30th /64

Dear Friends

I seat my self to inform you of some news that will be hard to come to Parents but you must try and bear up under the trials our Regt was in a very hard Battle on Malvern Hill and Billy Thacher was wounded in the arm and they had to amputate his arm close up to his Shoulder but he is geting along very well he will get home before very long if you can content youre selves at home it would be first as well for he will surely be taken care of and the best of care to he bore the pain like a brave Soldier Boy I have not seen him but John Maghne (?) of Harbor creek went with him to the Hospital and Billy Blair and Teray Hendson(?) they are here now I will go and see him if I possibly can he is four miles from here now Mrs Thacher you must not be uneasy about Billy for he will get along first rate and will soon be Home I feel very sorry for him Oh how lonesom I will be without him for we was always togather but I am glad he will get Home his Horse was wounded to in the foot well the mail is going out and I will have to close for the present

From youre Sincere Friend

Robert C Blair

Aug the 28 1864

Our Dear Brother

I received your kind letter this morning and was very glad to hear from you but was very sorry to hear that you had such an offle time with your fool arm I do hope it will get along now so you can come home for it seems as though I cannot wait for the time to come.

I am well at present and (?) that Wallis is the same although I have not seen him since last Tuesday he is still out to the stone query and I am all alone except a little Oakley boy is staying with us but he is not much company I am very lonesome it is such rainy bad weather that it makes it more unpleasant I saw the account of Lockwood Gaughes (?) death in the Gazette he died last Tuesday

Billie I hope you have told me the worst about your arm and rest assured I will not tell Mother for she is nearly cagey(?) now Billie it is getting late and I shall have to close take good care of yourself as far as you can I wish I could come and see you but I suppose that is impossible

So a good by from your affectionate Sister Jennie Thacher

Write soon and if you wont me to send you ay thing let me know

Davids Island Sept 9th /64

My Dear Mother

 I have just received your letter containing the money I received the other one yesterday I was very glad to hear from you My arm is most well so I shall start Monday or Tuesday I shall come by the Atlantic & Great Western RR if I can get transportation that way I will be very glad to get to my Dear old home once more I am quite smart now and can Travel as well as ever I have a good spirit & am gaining strength fast & getting fat

I drew clothes yesterday & am ready to start as soon as I can get my furlough I put in for it to day

The weather is quite pleasant here now I did not expect you would send me so much money I will see if the other money is in N. Y. when I get down there I have no news to write so I will close

Hoping soon to be home I remain Truly your

Affectionate son Wm Thacher

U. S. Army General Hospital,
Broad & Cherry Sts.,
Ward B Philadelphia, Oct 17th, 1864.

Dear Perrents

I will now endeavor to write you a few lines to let you know of my safe arrival at the Hospital here I arrived in Philadelphia Tuesday evening at 7 o'clock & staid at this Hospitable over night & in the morning reported to the Medical Director & from there was sent to a hospital in Broad & Pine st where I staid till Saturday evening When I reported here This is a very good hospital most of the cases are amputation cases it is right in the heart of the City We get a pass every day to be out until 6 o'clock I have enquired about getting me an arm the government furnishes an arm that is very good but if you dont take it you wont get any thing so I think my best plan will be is to take one A good many of the Boys here go to school they can get passes to go & I have a notion to stay here this winter & go to school as my board wont cost me any thing & will be getting pay all the time & be going to a good school at the same time but will do as you think best If I stay here I have a notion to learn Telegraphing & Book Keeping it costs \$35 to learn Telegraphing & \$30 for Book Keeping & I think I could learn them both this winter My arm is about well & is doing first rate I had no difficulty in getting here your Provision lasted me I finished the last of the cake yesterday We had Preaching here twice yesterday Write soon & let me know what you think about my staying here & what Father is going to if he has sold his farm yet or not I can not tell wheather I will get my ration money or not but it is doubtfull But I am going to the Doctor about it to day Write soon & tell me what I had better do You see by staying here I am (?) both for less than it would cost me to learn either at home & be drawing \$18 amonth besides instead of 8 but I will do as you think best about it I have not much news to write so I will close

I remain your affectionate

Son

Wm Thatcher

PS every time I write I

Will send an envelop

(?) so it will be sure to come

United States Army Gen. Hospital,

Ward B, 1st Broad St., Philadelphia, Dec 16th 1864.

Dear Mother

Your letters were duly read I received the last one last night I was very glad to hear from you Your letter found me in good health you must not be uneasy about my health as there is no more danger here than there would be at home They do not send any sick here only those that have lost a limb are sent here now The money you sent was very acceptable it will do as I don't need much now I will be glad when you get moved there I can come home once in a while & make you a visit

I am getting along finely at school & getting along very fast I like the school first rate When you come down here let me know & I will meet you at the Depot if you don't let me know when you come I may be at school but if you start from home in the morning you will get here in the morning before day light I hope Georges Folks & all the rest will come down here The weather has been quite cool here for a week back & has snowed some but not very much we are having very good news in the papers here now about the army & I hope it will continue so I must (?) here & get ready to go to school

Hoping these few lines will find you well I remain your Affectionate Son

Wm Thacher

United States Army Gen. Hospital,

Broad & Cherry Streets,

Philadelphia, Jan 21st 1865

My Dear Parents

It has been some time since I have heard from you although I have been looking very anxiously for a letter & have written three times since I have had a letter from you I am well at present & I hope this will find you the same I have not been to school any this week I had a bad cold & did not want to go until it got better I am over it now & will begin again Monday

Pg 2)

I have a chance for a situation in the spring in a Flour & Grain C(?) store Which I think will be a good place for me the man seems to be a very nice man

We have been looking / expecting to be transferred every day to Christian street but I don't know when we will be It is a better Hospital than this is When you write I want you to send me some money as I am entirely out & need a little occasionally We signed the pay rolls New Years but I do not know when we will get our pay but I hope to get it before long so that I pay up the balance of my schooling as it has been due some time We are having very encouraging news in the papers here lately & hope it may continue so now answer this soon as I want to hear from you very much & am getting uneasy about you & fear some of you are sick if so write & let me know

Hopeing to here

From you soon I remain

Your Affectionate

Son

Wm Thacher

I will send you an Envelop directly

Quaker City Business College

Philadelphia March 16th 1865

Mother

I received your letter and was glad to hear that you were all well at home your letter found me in my usual good health I am going to School yet I got my diploma last Thursday But I think I shall go another week yet I was up to see that man that wanted me He said that he thought he would not want me before the first on (?) May But if I can get a situation sooner I shant wait for him I had a letter from Est the other day she said that Orve got homesick and went home She wrote that their had ben a great fire in Waterford it burned up the Bank Jonstons shoe store & down as far as Stanfords It is very warm here ti day have laher (?) began filin(?)ghing any yet I have no more news this time Write soon

I remain as ever your Affectionate Son

Wm Thacher

Phila April 5th 1865

Dear Father & Mother

I will now write you a few lines to let you know how I am getting along & as the same as usual I told you when I was here & thought I would be home on a furlough But now I think I sant be home until I get my Discharge I think that will take about a month before I get it as I will have to hear from the Regt before I can get it I wrote about a week a-go but have received no ans yet and it may be some time before I get an answer now that the army is on the move There has been great excitement her about the fall of Richmond If we get paid off I may be at home I have got going to school I am in the Commisary at present & probily will be till I get my Discharge The weather has been very pleasant here along back give my love to Wallace & Jenni.

Write soon

Wm Thacher