

3-19-1862

## Letter from Jonathan H. Wells (Washington Camp Warren) to family, June 19, 1862

Jonathan H. Wells

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March 19, 1862  
Washington Camp Warren

Dear Sister

I just had the good fortune to receive your letter mailed Feb. 28th. I must tell you the whole circumstances. The next day after I wrote you I was taken down with the measles & went about  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile to the hospital & a few days after I heard the Capt. had a letter for me so I sent word for him to send it down but it did not come. In 3 or 4 days the regt had marching orders & the day they started the cpt came down to the hospital to see us. I asked him for it he said it was in his overcoat and packed in a box & gone to Washington. Then I was mad but he said he would send it soon as he got to camp but he did not. I was hard sick for a few days I feared I never should see home again. There was about 40 of us our regt left mostly sick with measles. I got over them & got along well. Wyatt Hildreth died & one other Henry Harmon both of our Co D. HT was left in charge of us & when Wyatt died he went home with him & left me in charge & when 25 of us got able we came to the regt lying 2 miles from Washington City. We are in cite of the potomac. But about that letter when I got here I went Capt for it but he could not find it. That was last Sunday & today wednesday he chanced to find it & glad was I to receive it & twice glad when the first page was read & the next was turned to there behold a Dollar more money than I have seen since I left N.Y. Nancy I am 1000 times thankful & you shall have your reward. It is just 5 months today since I enlisted & have not got a cent but expect we shall this week. We have been mustering in for our pay today. We are expecting to start for Elexandria tomorrow we was ordered to start this morning & one regt pulled their tents all down & then it was countermanded & they had to stick them up again. There is about 100,000 encamped about this region. The weather is very pleasant here the ground has not been white with snow here this winter the fields are green with wheat & there is a small field close by with 2 or 3 thousand head of fatting cattle there is a perfect roar of cannon and rifles they are practicing with blank cartridges. I like camp life first rate the tents are large enough for four. I tent with Daniel Tower, Almon Tower & Orrin Smith. They took me in when I came here without a blanket to cover me. When we sick folks left the hospital we was not able to carry our napsacks so we threw them aboard of the truckmans cart with the box of hospital stores & we had to stop for our rations & he went on to the depot but when we got there he was not there & he did not come till the cars started & we have not seen or heard of them since. I had 2 bead quilts 2 blankets & all of my necessaries lots of paper envelopes needles thread towels 2 shirts pair drawers 1 pair new shoes. All is lost I guess the box was directed to the 98th. I have some ~~hopes~~ hopes yet. I have written 3 letters home since I left there & have recd 1 from Eds folks only they wrote the snow was 5 ft. deep. He said they was all well except father. He was having a hard time with a carbuncle on his back. Samuel Bowles sits by my side writing to his lady Lee your room mate at Malone. He and I took a walk down to the capitel today we visited the presidents garding and plucked each of us a flower. He sends his to his love & I send mine to you Hannah & when I see you you will please show me the same & may ~~not~~ that time bea not farr distant. When I was at home last we had a letter from you which contained sorrowful news & the next time I believe you said N had been sober for a good while & c. The letter that Ed wrote he said they recd one from you & he was having another drunk. I hope Nancy ~~hope Nancy~~ will make up her mind when you go home to go with you for she can have a good home for as long as she wants & her children to. I must close for it is

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getting near night & growing cool & the fire is out in our little pocket stove a stove made of sheet iron put together with rods so it will come apart & go in to the knapsack our diet is bread & old salt pork & beef & we have a little rice & sugar & coffee them that want it. I must close now write soon as you get this direct to Washington, D.C. 98th. regt N.Y.S.V Co G in care of first sergt.

J.H.W.  
(Jonathan H. Wells)