

Page 1:

Muncy June 10, 1862

Dear Seargeant,

Your favor of June 5th inst for Manifest of Norfolk & Petersburg Rail Road and Uncle Sam's Mail, was gratefully received. Altho I have nothing of special interest to send you yet I feel it a duty to write if only to say I thank you for remembering Muncy and myself. I have written so often to my friends, in different portions of the army, dearer for the cause they have espoused, and the consciousness that they carry their lives in their hands, without answer, that I had almost despaired of hearing of them unless thro (?) the lists of the nobly dead, the honorably wounded or the () victorious returned

Page 2

After "grim visag'd war has smoothed his wrinkled front" and "Shrill alarums have been chang'd to merry greetings". I am pleased to hear of the general health of your Co. & Regt. and of the health of yourself particularly and that instead of getting into "a wearing way" you "rather like it." Also that Max Weber is your General. The name is warlike. Max smacks of War and Weber is German enough to insure the soldier with brain to plan and will and strength to do and dare. Did you ever read the grand play called "Max Piccolomine"? I have never seen the name of Max Weber but I have thought of the Noble character of that play and have thought that with the opportunity Max Weber would prove as brave

Page 3

as true and faithful as the older hero. What glorious truths (?) and traits of character, among the infernal falsities and infernal inhumanities, this infamous Rebellion has brought to light. Who shall hereafter say that we have not a nation of men () formable in a day, as is seen, from peaceful citizens to soldiers such as no nation has surpassed. The Navy. God bless her—officers and gallant men. From the few vessels, worthless almost, left by the damnable treason of villainous officials, see now the hundreds of floating guardians of the Old Flag. From grand exploits at the very outset to more glorious as the war progresses has bee her course. And the Army, robbed of the chief dependent leaders who

Page 4

had been taught the Art of War in her schools, fed off her bounty, sucked the milk of her kindness that made them what they were by their own dastardly treason and perjury—the () yet has found a few "faithful among the faithless ()" and others, fresh from the scenes and pursuits of civil life ready and willing and capable to lead the invincible hosts of freemen to the defence of the Nations life her honor and her flag. As to the men! "How numerous is your Army"? "Count the leaves of the forest!" Are they cowards? Can they fight? () over the battle fields, and before the array the fields and battles of other days, over which we have pondered with wonder pale into insignificance. But enough of this! The determination and conclusions of the men who have gone forth against the hounds of hell is to fight for this "Our green land forever!" and

Page 5

"Whether on the battle plain,
or on the gibbet high,

They find, who fight for God and man,
The fittest place to die.”

Things move on here much in the old way save that the smooth tenor of the old time is suffered and () by each breath () from the Army. Amid the homes are vacant places. Some never to be filled when song and laughter beguiled the cares and daily work of life are thoughtful faces and anxious hopeful souls. Hands do the work as before but hearts are with the Army in the field! Men are but half fit for business when hourly think of other things by far more important.

Robt Black, as you may have heard, resigned his post on account disability to stand the service. He was her and has left for Ohio. () is Capt. Peterman 1st & Tribley

Page 6

2d Lieutenants. I have not heard nor others from the Co. service Gen. Banks' retreat – but judging from the papers, they are with Gen. Shields & Fremont in the neighborhood of Front Royal or Strasburg. Robt. Barr returned from the hospital ay Frederick, Maryland, where he had been since his wound at the Battle of Winchester. He is out of service. H. Carr also has returned on account of disability. I send you yesterday's Tribune and Luminary – the first contains the Official Report of Gen. Banks on his grand retreat from the forces of Jackson & others. And the nice little sinking of rams and other sheep at Memphis. The Luminary contains a short report of Henry Stutlers, formerly

Page 7

a good Wide Awake, Lager(?) man and painter, relating the experience of a fresh water sailor. Be good enough to write when you feel like it, and if anything of moment happens to your Regt whether you feel like it or not. (?) Alde(?) has gone to Phila to check in Phil. & Reading R. Road Office. Long may he ware for he was a good Wide Awake which next to being a soldier is a good recommendation!

Give my respects to everybody known or unknown excepting always any that looks or acts, or speaks, or thinks, or feels or stinks like “Secession. d- on them. If you pick up anything of interest like the old “(?) Message” I would be glad to receive it. Even if it should be a snuff box of Jeff D. or any other villain like him.

Page 8

Believe me
Respectfully Yr. Friend
R. Hawley

--. A. Wilson
Ord. Seg. Co. K
58th Reg. P. V