

**CIVIL WAR LETTERS  
OF  
JOHN DICHER,  
COMPANY B, 154th NEW YORK VOLUNTEERS  
TO  
MISS SARAH FRANK,  
ASHFORD HOLLOW,  
CATTARAUGUS COUNTY, NEW YORK**

*Collection of Doris Laing, East Otto, New York*

*Transcribed by Mark H. Dunkelman, Providence, Rhode Island*

JOHN DICHER--Age 24 years. Enlisted August 27, 1862 at East Otto, to serve three years; mustered in as private, Co. B, September 24, 1862; mustered out July 1, 1865 at David's Island, New York Harbor.

Members of the 154th New York mentioned:

Bradley, Warren--1/10/63.

Hess, George W.--1/10/63.

[On Magnus colored letterhead, No. 9, "U.S. Naval Expedition."]

Fredicksburg Dec 17 62

Miss Sarah Frank

Dear friend we have had some hard marching since I last wrote I left Fairfax 1 week ago today the country was hilly with napsack box & gun it is harder work than farming if there is any that grumble about their heavy taxes or think we do not earn our money & bounty let them carry my load through the wood I know it would draw the sweat if it did not the bounty we marched a week have gone about 65 miles the principle places through which we passed Acudy creek Dumfees & Stafford Court house we are here to reinforce Burnside the enemy have a strong position Burnside tried 3 days without success the slaughter was great on both sides probably we lost a few the most men we expect to burn some powder before many days can not tell just when it looks as if the next would be a flanking movement by our forces we are on one side of the Shenandoah they on the other Burnside occupied the town 2 days but moved his force back the night of the 3d day

Give my respects to all enquiring friends we are under marching orders so I must close Good by my Dear Sarah write soon & please one that wishes to hear from you very much

Yours ever true

John Dicher

[On stationery with printed poem, "The Brave Soldier" by Andrew G. Park of Co. B, 154th N.Y.]

Camp at Falmoth Oposit Fredricksburg  
January 10 1863

Dear Sarah

I received yours of the 1 the evening of the 8 was glad to hear from you agane it finds me on the gain am geting beter quite fast the news of my being burnt is a mistake rheumitis is what has ailed me there is but little going on & but little to write about the 5 division Co G & B ar here where we have been as guards in the fore noon they have company or squad drills in the afternoon batalion drill at 4 PM dressperad beside one man stands as sentinal changeing every hour Warren Bradly died about Christmas of feever it was rainy & snowed some yesterday but is plesent today perhaps you would like to know the price of things flowr \$5.00 per barel potatoes \$2.00 bush butter \$,75 lbs chese \$,50 so you see a solgers money goes but little ways for what he buys you must know I have not bought much as our regiment has not been payed aney thing since we left Jamestown I had a new years supper I bought ,25 worth of flowr mad some apple dumplins but did not have aney apples to put in so I boiled them in my little pail & they went pretty well it was not hard bread but soft bread & made a change write & let me know what solgers got home was it F F write where Stephen is teaching I have not heard from him but 2 since I left Jamestown you write that Crawfferd teaches & you go to school this winter I am glad you ar going do you have a good school how maney go this winter Now Sarah doe not deprive yourself of any comforts cloths or books that you want it is my greatest enjoyment to make you happy and give you what you want I think we will be payed before a great while then I will send it to you I sent you a leter the 23 of December with a dollar did you get it if you did not I will not send aney more by male be sure and let me know if you got it did Uncle Jacob Frank pay you the intrst on that hundred dollars last fall when it was due tell Gilbert I would like to have him write to me very much if he will I will pay for the oysters when I get home I have received but 1 leter from him I have writen to him several times I see George W. Hess he is well sayes he does not get leters regular he hant herd from home in 2 weeks tell his wife if you see hur This from your affectionate & Treu

John Dicher

[On stationery with color woodcut and printed poem, "A Yankee Man-Of-War." This letters appears to be written in someone else's hand.]]

Bridgeport Alabama  
Oct 3rd, 1863

Dear Sarah,

I write to let you know that I am Away down in Alabama, and that I am all well. We made the entire journey here on a Rail Road in Cattle Cars, and it lasted 6 days and 5 nights during which time we were never more than 2 hours at a time without going. I tell you it is hard work sitting from morn to night crowded and jammed together with no room to sleep or even sit comfortable but still we got along and here we are

We came before our Regiment and thought it would not come but yesterday morning they came and today all the prisoners taken at Chancellorville and at Gettysburg joined us they have all been exchanged.

The last letter I got from you was Sept 18th. I got Gilberts letter and answered it. I am glad to hear that you are well and also that A \_\_\_ and your sister are well give my love to them all and say that I am always glad to hear from them. I sent a Check for \$40 from Alexandria on the 25th of last month I hope it went safe.

You talk about a Furlough but I am so far away now that it is impossible and I suppose the first going home will be all together.

I hope you will enjoy yourself and have good health and Love me until I do come. I want you to write to me as often as you can for I like to get letters from you and to know that you and all the friends are well. A letter is the greatest comfort that a soldier has. We came through from Washington by Harpers Ferry through Western Virginia into Ohio at Belleair on the Ohio River then through Columbus and on to Indianapolis, Indiana, from thence to Jeffersonville where we crossed the River to Louisville Kentucky and on through Kentucky to Nashville Tenn from there to Stephenson Alabama & so to Bridgeport where we now are the whole distance about 1200 miles Give my best respects to Mr & Mrs Multer and sat that I will write to them soon. Direct the same as before but leave off Washington and put on Nashville Tennessee.

Write soon no more now

From yours ever

John Dicher

ONWARD

1776

1862

Baltimore Oct 1st

My Dear Friend

I left Jamestown Oct 29th 5 PM & arived in Baltimore today at one O clock we are now waiting to learn where we are to be sent Have had a good dinner & were cheered by all most evry body we met & were greeted with

with flags & cheers while marching into Baltimore. There is now about 6000 soldiers waiting to be sent away before we can go I am well & hope this will find you enjoying the same blessing for which let us be thankful to God

Remember me while far away & pray for me that god wil grant me a safe return & keep me from the eivels with which I am surrounded You need not write til you hear from me again and beleive me your sincere friend Your truly

to  
Sara Frank

John Dicher

.....  
Fairfax Court House Va Oct --

Miss Sarah Frank

John wished me to write to you and tell you that he was well and enjoying himself very well we are one half mile from fairfax court House under Gen Sigel command have very pleasant place to camp we got here last Monday noon and properly we shall stay here some time now but can not tell certain there is 16,000 men near us

and more expected every day Gen Sigel is a very smart looking man is not very large but very active we like him very much what we have seen of him but I have not time to write any more we are all very busy and do not get time to write much so you will have to make short letters answer untill we get --- our hurry

Yours truly

John Dicher  
W.H. Lincoln

(Scott Frank collection)

ONWARD

1776



1862

Baltimore Oct 1st

My Dear

Friend I left  
Lime stone Oct 29th 5 O'clock  
arrived in Baltimore today  
at one O'clock we are now  
waiting to learn where we  
are to be sent. Have had a  
good dinner & were cheered  
by all most every body we  
met & were greeted with



CRAVING



2081

2771

to keep me from the evils  
with which I am surrounded.  
You need not write til you  
hear from me again and  
believe me your sincere  
friend Your truly  
to

Sara Frank

John Dicker

with flags & banners while  
marching into Baltimore  
There is said about 600  
Soldiers waiting to be sent  
away before we can go  
I am well & hope this will  
find you enjoying the  
same blessing for which let  
us be thankful to God  
Remember me while far away  
& pray for me that God will

and more expected every day.  
Gen Sigel is my best looking  
man is not so large but my activities  
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we are all very busy and do not  
get time to write much so you  
will have to make short letters  
unless until we get our own letters.

Yours truly

Robert Dickson

for M. Lincoln

Gen





A. 1.

U. S. NAVAL EXPEDITION

U.S. Marine 12 Frankfurt St

Friend of Lieut House Va Det 1.  
Aly Genak Frank

Police wished me  
to write to you and tell you  
that he was well and enjoying  
himself very well we are now  
half mile from our coast  
House under Gen Sigel command  
have my pleasant place to  
camp in yet here last  
Monday noon and probably  
we shall stay here some time  
more but can not tell certain  
there is 16,000 men near us.