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John Hilton , 1828 -1903 Papers

English immigrant, corporal in Co. F, 111th Pennsylvania Infantry.
Hilton's Civil War letters (written from the Washington, D.C. / Baltimore, Maryland area, Cedar Creek. Loudon Heights) to his wife, Mary Jane.
Includes various military and legal documents, newsclippings and photographs .

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John Hilton Portrait



*At my death, I desire that this Record be
left in custody of my*

NAME OF CUSTODIAN

Signature

Military documents:

Citizenship Order

Corporal's Appointment

Furlough 7-11-62 -front -back

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STATE OF NEW-YORK,
CHAUTAUQUE COUNTY COURT OF SESSIONS. }

Present Hon. *R. P. Marvin* Judge.

Personally appeared in open Court, *John Hilton* and made application to be admitted a Citizen of the United States of America, and it appearing to the satisfaction of this Court, that the said *John Hilton* did, on the 13 day of January 1868, before the Chautauque County Court, declare on oath, that it was his bona fide intention to become a Citizen of the United States of America, and to renounce forever all allegiances to any Foreign Prince, Potentate, State or Sovereignty, whatsoever, and particularly to the Queen of Great Britain and Ireland to whom he

then owed allegiance, and this Court being satisfied by the oaths of *Walter K Williams* and *William Davis* well known by this Court to be Citizens of the United States, that the said applicant has resided within the limits and under the jurisdiction of the United States, and within the State where this Court is held, for five years or more, next preceding the present time. And he has been in the Army of the United States, that he has been honorably discharged therefrom it further appearing to the satisfaction of this Court, that during that time, the said applicant has behaved as a man of good moral character, attached to the principles of the Constitution of the United States of America, and well disposed to the good order and happiness of the same; which said proof being satisfactory evidence to this Court of the said facts, they permitted the said applicant to take and subscribe the following Oath: viz

I, *John Hilton* do solemnly swear that I will support the Constitution of the United States of America, and that I do absolutely and entirely renounce and abjure all allegiances to any Foreign Prince, Potentate, State, or Sovereignty, and particularly to the Queen of Great Britain and Ireland to whom I now owe allegiance.

John Hilton

Sworn and Subscribed in Open Court, }

January 13th 1868 }
R. H. Williams Spl Dep Clerk.

Whereupon it is ordered by the said Court that the said applicant be admitted to all the rights and privileges of a Citizen of the United States of America.

STATE OF NEW-YORK,
Chautauque County Clerk's Office, } ss.

I have compared the foregoing with an original Naturalization Paper remaining in this Office, and certify that the same is a true copy thereof, and of the whole of said original. In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and official seal this 13 day of January 1868.

R. H. Williams Spl Dep Clerk.



Pennsylvania, ss.

Dec 12. 1861



To John Milton

Know that you the said John Milton

being duly returned, are hereby appointed as
Sift Corporal of Company F Captain
John Braden of the One Hundred
and Eleventh Regt Penna. Volunteers,
called into service of the United States by the
President, to hold the said appointment for three
years, or during the war, unless sooner discharged,
or deprived by the sentence of Court Martial.

Matthew S. Blauder

Colonel Commanding 11th Regiment Penn'a Vols.

To all whom it may concern

The bearer hereof, John Hilton Corporal
of Captain J. Bradens Company 111 Regt.
of P. V. aged 33 years 5 ft 6 inches high
light complexion gray eyes brown hair
and by profession a brick-maker, borne
in Birkenhead England, and enlisted
at Northeast State of Pennsylvania on the
22nd of October 1861. to serve for the period
of three years is hereby permitted to
go to Northeast in the County of Erie
state of Pennsylvania he having received a
furlough from the 1st day of July to the
1st day of August at which period he
will return to his Company as Regiments
where ever it may then be or be
considered a deserter

Subsistence has been furnished to say
John Hilton to the 10th day of ~~July~~ and pay
to the 28th day of July 1862 both inclusive

G. B. Jackson

Apt Surgeon in Charge Genl Hospital

Approved,

E. H. Summey

St. Col. 32nd Regt. A. C. S.

Camp Post. Winchester Va July 11 1862

John Hilton of the 111th Regiment
Penn. Vol. having applied for a certificate
on which to ground an application for
leave of absence I do here by certify that
I have carefully examined him this morning
and find that he is now
labouring under Chronic Pneumonia

and that in consequence thereof
he is in my opinion unfit for duty
I further declare in my belief that he
will not be able to resume his duties
in a less period than twenty days.

Geo. W. Jackson
Apt Surg in charge Natl Hospital

*paid to
Dec 30*

W. H. Jackson

TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN!

Know ye, That John Hilton a Corporal of Captain
John Bradens Company, (F.) 111th Regiment of Penna. I. B. who
was enrolled on the twenty second day of October one thousand eight hundred and sixty one
to serve three years, is hereby Discharged from the service of the United States
this 18th day of Jan 1863, at Fairfax Station Va by reason
of Surgeons certificate of disability
(No objection to his being re-enlisted is known to exist.)*

Said Corporal John Hilton was born in Birkenhead in the
State of England, is thirty three years of age, five feet six inches
high, light complexion grey eyes brown hair, and by occupation, when enrolled,
a brick-maker

Given at Fairfax Station Va this Eighteenth day of January 1863.

* This sentence will be erased should there be anything in the conduct
or physical condition of the soldier rendering him unfit for the Army.

Geo. Cobham Jr
Lieut Col - Comd'g 111th

OATH OF IDENTITY.

On this _____ day of _____ in the year _____ personally appeared _____ above mentioned, who, being sworn according to law, declares that he is the identical _____ who was a _____ in the company commanded by Captain _____ in the regiment _____ that he _____ on the _____ day of _____ and was discharged at _____ the _____ day of _____ by reason of _____

Sworn and subscribed before me the day and year above written.

I certify that _____ before whom the above _____ purports to have been made, is a Justice of the Peace duly authorized to administer oaths, and that the above is his signature.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my official seal, this _____ day of _____ in the year _____ at _____ in the State of _____

Clerk of the _____

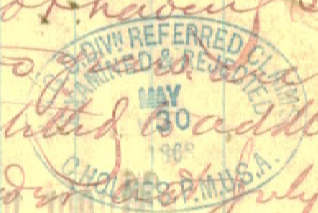
*Adm 12th Corps
Jan'y 17: 1863
The discharged*

*By order of
Major Slocum
E. W. Gunder
Lieut. A. D. Adams*



*Dec 12 - 1874
mail
John Hilton
Runkle*

*Soldiers discharged
for Phys Disability
not having served
two years & not
entitled to addl bounty
under Act of July 28 66*



*Chautaugua County
Clerk's Office
Recorded Oct 12, 1874
in Liber 5 of Miscella-
neous Records at
page 150
Herman Sixbey Clerk*

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Certificate of Marriage.



"Happy they! the happiest of their kind!
Whom gentler stars unite; and in one fate
Their hearts, their fortunes, and their being
blend."

"How blest the sacred tie that binds
In union sweet accordant minds!
How swift the heavenly course they run,
Whose hearts, whose faith, whose hopes
are one."

This Certifies

That I have this day, in conformity to the Laws of this State, united in
Marriage *John Hollow* of *Dunkirk Chautauque County N. Y.* and *Mary Jane Pike*
of the same place

WITNESSES.

William Harding

Rhoda A. Harding

Witness my hand and seal at *Dunkirk*
N. Y. this *28th* day
of *February* in the year of our
Lord one thousand eight hundred and fifty *six*

L. P. Brown
Justice of the Peace

OBITUARY.

Captain John Hilton, One of Dunkirk's
Oldest And Most Respected
Residents.

John Hilton, a veteran of the Civil War, one of Dunkirk's oldest and most respected citizens, and a prominent member of the Masonic fraternity, died at one o'clock Sunday afternoon, December 6th, 1903, after two weeks' illness from paralysis. He was 75 years old.

Mr. Hilton was born at Birken Head, England, Dec. 16, 1828, and came to this country in 1846, when he was in his 21st year. He spent a short time in Holyoke, Mass., and came to Dunkirk in 1851 and made his permanent residence here.

He learned brick making in England from his father, who carried on a large business and was a sub-contractor under Sir Thomas Brassey the eminent English railroad contractor. John Hilton worked before coming to the United States with his father William Hilton, under Contractor Brassey in France and Wales and had a good offer to continue in that service at the time he decided to come to America. After he came to Dunkirk he started in the brick business in which he prospered and continued till his death.

He was married to Miss Mary Jane Pike of Dunkirk, February 28th, 1856. He enlisted from North East, Pa., as corporal in Company E, 11th Regiment, Pennsylvania volunteers, October 22, 1861 and was honorably discharged at Fairfax Station, Va., January 18th, 1865. The papers for his promotion to a captaincy were already made out when an attack of heart disease necessitated his honorable discharge.

He was past commander of William O. Stevens Post, G. A. R. and always attended the post meetings and the reunions of his regiment. His loyalty to the United States military service was closely woven with every fiber of his nature and on his sick bed, the evening before his death, he waved a Chautauqua salute with his handkerchief to a picture of his old comrades of the 11th, taken at a regimental reunion, and which hung on the wall at the foot of his bed. Among his most cherished possessions were a picture of the church in Birken Head, where he was baptized, his military badges and the photographs of his military comrades and brethren in the Masonic fraternity of which he had a very large collection.

Mr. Hilton was a vestryman in St. John's Episcopal church 21 years. He was marshal in the Dunkirk Lodge, F. and A. M. and was for 16 years, Captain General of Dunkirk Commandery, Knights Templar. He was Republican politically but never accepted any office, as he objected strongly to entering politics.

Mr. Hilton is survived by his wife, to whom he had been wedded only three years less than a half century; his son, William C. Hilton; his daughters, Estelle and Maude; sister, Mrs. Fiske of Dunkirk and another sister, Mrs. Lavigne of Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin.

The funeral will be held from St. John's church at 2:00 o'clock Wednesday afternoon.

BURIAL OF JOHN HILTON.

Old Comrades and Old Friends Paid
Their Last Tribute to the Departed.

The funeral of Captain John Hilton was held from St. John's Episcopal church at 2 o'clock this afternoon. The altar, lectern, pulpit and baptismal font were draped in mourning as was also the family pew. Great quantities floral tributes of remarkable beauty were grouped in front of the chancel and about the coffin, which was covered by a mass of beautiful flowers.

The floral offerings included an oblong block of roses and chrysanthemums from the Ashlar Club; square and compass from Dunkirk Lodge, No. 767, F. and A. M.; large upright cross from Dunkirk Commandery No. 40, Knights Templar; crescent and star from Ismailia Temple of the Mystic Shrine; a large wreath from William O. Stevens Post, G. A. R.; a broken circle from the family.

The remains were escorted from the family home in Dove street, by Dunkirk Commandery No. 40 Knights Templar and Wm O. Stevens Post, G. A. R. the Dunkirk Lodge F. & A. M., and the Lake City Band which played Nevin's funeral march, a sweet and solemn dirge, as the procession passed from the house to the church.

The coffin upon which rested the white plumed Knight Templar helmet of the deceased and masses of roses and lilies was borne up the central aisle to the front of the chancel by the following Knights Templar: C. D. Armstrong, D. G. Jillson, L. R. Ryckman, George Richmond, J. A. Link, M. G. Lyon.

The impressive burial service of the Episcopal church was conducted by the Rev. W. W. Rafter, rector of the church and the Church choir sang the hymns: "Lead Kindly Light," "Art Thou Weary, Art Thou Languid?" "Peace, Perfect Peace."

At the conclusion of the church burial service, the Knight's Templar gathered around the coffin of their departed brother and the burial ritual of the order was conducted by the Rev. W. W. Rafter as prelate.

The Women's Relief corps attended the obsequies in a body.

In leaving the church for the cemetery, the Lake City Band played "Hearts and Flowers" and at Forest Hill cemetery repeated the two pieces.

"Reveille" was sounded before the Grand Army comrades of the deceased conducted their burial ritual at the grave and after the coffin had been lowered, the bugle sound "Taps."

The relatives and friends from out of town included Mr and Mrs. John Haight and Miss Nellie Haight, Westfield; Harry Pike, Jackson, Michigan; Mrs. McNimm, Buffalo. Many Knight Templars from other places were in attendance upon the obsequies. These included H. A. Noble, Buffalo; W. H. Thompson, D. G. Jillson, F. R. Mosher, Westfield; L. R. Ryckman, J. A. Dunham, J. V. Munger, Brocton; G. D. Conner, Portland; F. E. Shaw, Sincleville; N. J. Horton, Ripley.

WAS AT REQUEST OF DECEASED

A request was made today by several G. A. R. comrades and members of Dunkirk Commandery K. T. that the OBSERVER state that the music played by the Lake City band, returning from the interment of the remains of the late John Hilton, in Forest Hill cemetery Wednesday, was chosen by, and played at the request of Mr. Hilton. The selections chosen were made known by him a number of times before his death. The character of the music has been criticised, but it is in strict accordance with military custom that a quick step is played by a military band while returning from the burial of a comrade-in-arms.

I hope you will answer this soon I
think I will write you again soon
I must conclude as I have not
any more to say at present
I hope this will find you all well
from your most kind and
loving husband

Direct

John Hilton
first Brigade
Sigel's Division

Direct

John Hilton

Co F. 111. regt P.V.

First Brigade
Sigel's Division
Winchester

Va

you had
better get
somebody
to direct it for you
so as to have it please



GEN. BURNSIDE,
THE HERO OF ROANOKE.

Cedar creek. June 27/62
About four miles from Strasburg
Dear Wife

I received your letter yesterday
that was mailed on the
twentieth, inst, I have
received all your letters but
I think you have not received
all mine I answered your other
letter right away and I
got J. Loomis, to direct ^{it} for me Dear Wife you
wanted to know my health is it as not been very
good for about three weeks I have not done any
duty for two weeks my appetite left me most
entirely the crackers I could not eat so
I bought me a loaf of bread and some cheese
the bread 15 cents per loaf, the cheese 25 cents
per pound my loaf of bread lasted me four
days what I used to eat in one day. I was
sick two weeks when the dircia took hold of me
that lasted about a week so you may think it
made me rather weak I have been to the
hospital three days yesterday for about 15

yesterday
minutes I was very sick with the cramp
in the stomach but to day I feel A good
deal better the doctor says it is the
rume tism that is the matter with me
I think I will be fit for duty again
in A few days at least I hope so, Marwin
Southwick & Fred, Clark as gone
home on A furlow for 30 days Clark lives
above, Spooners, the say that we have about
80,000 men here in this valey to meet the
enemy I have seen, Fremont he his here
with is men we have A great many
pieces of artillery here I think there will
be A bloody battle before the rebels gets
this place back again this is A great wheat
country the rebels want the crops I think they
will have to fight before the get it, you stated
in your letter you was going home to get some
berries you wished I was there well I would
like to have some short cake I tell you that
we dont get much of a variety here I have
wished since I have been sick for some much

and milk but that is all the good it
would ^{at I do} I want you to get considerable of
fruit for I live in hopes of being home before
winter, I am glad that the children are
getting A long so well Dear Wife I want you
to keep up good courage about me for I think
I will be all right in A few days Again
I thought once of not saying much about
it but I thought it was my duty to do so
give my love to all your folk tell your
father I hope he will have good crops
send me word if your father will have
much hay or ~~cut~~ send word if he as any
lambs or not. we are expecting our pay in A
few days I have just twenty cents left
you wanted to know if I got the postage stamps
I got them all and I am much obliged to you
for them, I sent your mother A picture of
camp Mc Kim, and I sent you A picture
for willie and you never said wether
you got them or not I would like you to
say if you got them or not

direct John Hilton

Co. F. 111th Regt. P. V.

2nd Brigade, 2nd Division

2nd Corps, Army of Virginia

Washington

D. C.

CO. F. 111th Regt. P. V.

2nd Brigade 2nd Division

2nd Corps Army of Virginia

Washington

D. C.

Cap. Braden, wishes me to say
that he is well he will write
soon

THE UNION AND THE CONSTITUTION

Head-quarters Culpepper Regt. Co. F. Virginia
Camp H August 15th 1862

With pleasure I take the opportunity
of writing these few lines to you hoping the
may find you all well. I must inform
we arrived here yesterday and glad the
were to see us. There is some of our men
sick Joseph Loomis his sick in the hospital
and also Cooley. and Daniel Webster and Corporal
Dike that was reported dead I have not
seen any of the sick ash Orton has gone
to see them this morning they are about
a mile from here at Culpepper I suppose
I shant have a chance to see them at pres^{ent}
as they are going to take the sick and
wounded away to Alexandria or Washington

Some of our wounded have gone and the others are exping to go to day. I will give you A statement about the wounded there is sposed two killed as the are missing one name Varney the other Martz. Wounded A. Dixon. Goff. Mallick. Atkinson. Kane. G. Bogue. G. Rogers. Rockwell. J. Hughes. H. Bemus. most of the wounded are doing well espiciously Dixie he makes the doctors laugh at him he his wounded in the thigh he said he had been feeling round the sore he said he could not tell where the ball came out except it came out of his tother end. He thinks the ball is in there yet I sent the letter to him last night. M. Wells his promoted quartermaster. the boys have had A hard time of it with fottage the ^{say} our regiment fought very bravely in the battle the walked right to up to the enemy. the ^{fell} say the enemy very fast the mowed them down all round. Abert Ferrus his teamster he is well

I saw A man in Washington that I was some Aquainted with he was in the hospital when I was I inquired About Mr Davidson. he said that he left him in Frederick very sick he thinks he will never get well. my journey made me some tired the say I look the worst of any of them, the boys live well now the get plenty of things to eat, Bruce Arton, his well we wrode on the cars to Culpepper so we did not have to march far I will write you again soon I recieved the letter with the likness now I think I must conclude as I have not any more news give my respects to all inquiring friends and except the same yourself from your Affectionate Husband
John Hilton

Boonsboro. Sept. 16/62

Dear Wife,

I received your letter to day and was very glad to hear from you once more no doubt you will blame me for not writing to you before but you must consider that we cant either write or send letters away when we would like to for we are on the march all the time there was A big fight last Sunday we had A hard days march we got to the battle field About midnight yesterday we marcht thren there is A many of the rebels dead laing on the field yet, the enemy was defcted with great loss we took A many prisoners. while I am now writing there is A great roaring on cannon I think it is About seven miles of we have got so use to them that we dont notice them, we have got some new guns the are better then the old ones, we had A eleven new recrrecits come from wattsburg Lerets, Tracy, sent them, Brunce Orton, has gone to the hospital sick, there was word come in A letter that capt. Braden was

sick and gone to the hospital it is not so
so you can tell Mrs Braden, that he as
not been sick. he his well, we came throu
Fredrick last sunday I saw Mr Davidson
he was on the street he looks very bad he
was taken prisoner by the rebels the give
him a parole I saw the writing. he told
me that he as not had any pay since he
left Baltimore. you spoke about the
stove I think you had best take it will
do towards the rent. I dont want you to
go in that house with Mrs Height on a
count of the children. I have had a letter
from Jane I sent it to you I have not
answered it get send me some paper
next time you write I have envelopes
I wrote to Father but had no answer
I suppose you have great times about
the war we dont have much news for
we cant get any papers reguler. we
think the rebels are getting the worst of it
I hope it is so for I would like to have the
war ended before the bad weather

comes for it will make bad marching
my health is good only my ankle troubles
me some with marching so much on it
you know it is the one I had hurt when
I was a boy I dont know how long we
are going to stay here I am expecting
the word fall in every minute you
see we have to write in a hurry
you did not say anything about your
folks how the were getting along
I hope this will find you all well
write soon as I am anxious to hear
from you give my love to all and
except the same yourself
from your husband
John Hilton

the order is given to march
dont know where where

Box 898 / Hartford Oct 8th 1862
My dear brother

Your good letter was received
in due time & you don't know
how very glad we all were to
hear from you. What a blessing
John that God permitted you to
leave the battle field unharmed
may you always be as fortunate
but I feel afraid that some-
thing will happen to you at some
time. What if you should fall
as thousands of others have done
do you not go to battle with
the visions of your little family
before you & oh how dreadful
it would be if you should be
taken away from them through
this unholy war.

I ought not to discourage you
but John it makes me shudder
when I stop to think of it
God grant that you may be spared
to your family I wish you had
not volunteered in this Campaign
for I look upon it as a very
unjust & wicked War which
is causing thousands to be
slaughtered every day

I am very sorry you did not
hear of Mrs Wood's death sooner
for we should all have been very
glad to have seen you Mary is
getting along very well she is quite
strong again & looks well the Estate
is not settled yet consequently it is
not known what there is but I
think she will have enough to
keep herself & Children comfort-
ably If Mrs could have been
spared the best fair to become a
rich woman at some future day

I believe that Father is about
returning East this fall
& I am very glad of it I think
I will go & live with them if
they do as Mother is getting so lame
I have had a letter from Sister Ann
it was quite unexpected Annie -
Practin has enclosed a few lines to
you she has long spoken of writing to
you she has got another addition to her
family brother for Annie she has got
an even family now a boy & girl
Mrs Wood & her family are well &
the girls you would not know if you
should meet them on the street they
have all got beaux in the War
& such writing of letters you never saw
John Wood remains the same he
has not got the brass knocker yet
they have three Children my paper
is fast billing so I must close
write soon again for we are always
glad to hear from you All join in
love to you Ever your sister Jane

Loudon Heights, Near Harper's Ferry
Oct. 2nd / 62

must try and content yourself. I know
how you feel but we must hope for the
best I think it will all come out
right - and I feel sorry for the children
for I know they would like to see you
often do I think of you and them

I sometimes think that we shall soon
be home there as there has been some talk of
peace being made. our Captain wishes
me to say that - in his will, we are
having quite a rest here we have been
here near two weeks. they have commenced
to give us soft bread yesterday for the
first time you wanted to know about
trading stores you said she wants
five dollars to boot I think you had better
give it I hope you will answer this soon
I must conclude for this time - hoping you
are all well my health never was better
remember me to all inquiring friends
my love to you and the children
from your beloved husband

John Hiltner

Dear Wife

I recieved your letter to day and have just
read it I am surpris'd to hear that you have
not recieved my other letter which I wrote
you on the 21st ^{sept} inst. we had the battle on
the 17th sept. I wrote you all the particulars
I tell you it was a hard fight we was on the
field fighting eight hours I fought all the
time with my rapsack and every thing
on my cartridge box olds 40 rounds I
filled it up three times when I came off
the field I had only 3 rounds left so you
may think there was something done
tell Mr. Watts & Mr. Palmer that
I think I done my duty I can venture
to say that dropt 2 or 3 gray backs for
them Ash. Orton, his wounded he was
wounded before he had a chance to fire his
gun he asked one of our men that was slightly
wounded how I got a long he told him he thought
I was all wright for the last time he saw me

I was loading my gun laughing & I
told him he thought it was a curious ^{place} to
laugh I did not think of danger there was
a many of my comrades fell and a many of
them is no more we had in our company 14
wounded and three killed. if you get some
of the Erie papers you will get the full partic-
ulars twice we had to fix our bayonets
twice the made a charge on us and was
repulsed with great loss the came within
a few feet of us we was laying down when the
came up we jumped up and yeld with all our
might we give them our fire the turned there
backs to us and we after them loading as we run
I tell ^{you} it was fun to see them how ^{the} keeled over
such a sight of dead bodies I never saw before
I came of the field without a scratch the
enemy went of without buirring there dead of
taking care of there wounded we had to take
care of there wounded the 145th regt buired
some of the dead I saw Mr Loomis the pidge
after the battle on the battle field the are in
camp a little ways from us I have been to

to see them there is a many of
them that is home sick by the time
the have gone threw what we have
the might complain I saw Mr
Davidson about the 15th of last month
when we coming threw Frederick he was
round on the street he looked very sick
he told me that he had not had any
money since he left Baltimore. I have
wrote to Jane and Father and Ann
I recieved your other letters I was
waiting a answer to mine. the
President was here yester day viewing
all the troops I have a five dollar
bill of westfield that is no use to me here
I inclose it in this I wish you would
send me a little money for I have not
any I howe for a stamp you can send
me one of these new fifty cents bills the
look like postage stamps all together
I sent for some the last time I
wrote I am sorry you did not get it
I am sorry you worry so much you

soon I would like to be there when the
come I feel as if I would like to
see them but I hope the time
will come when I shall have
the opportunity, you need not send
me any more money at present for
you see I have kept one dollar so
that will last me some time

I recieved all your letters I must
conclude I hope this will find you
all well as it leaves me at present
and send me all
the news give my love to all and
except the same yourself

I remain your true and loving
husband

John Hillier

Louden Heights Va.
Oct 10/62

Dear Wife

I recieved your letter and was glad
to hear from you once more I was very
glad that you recieved your ^{letter} that
I sent you I have wrote you since
and sent you five dollars in it
send me word if you have recieved
it or not. Dear Wife I must tell you
that last Tuesday night our regiment
was called on to go and try to capture
some rebels pickets that came over
the river nights scouting we went
about six miles we got to a place
where the crossed the river we took
one rebel there he told us we came
two miles to far, so we had to go back to
another place where the crossed our regiment
stayed at the forks of the road we formed
our picket and fourteen of us volunteered
to go ahead we went about a mile to
the ford it was then about half past one

o'clock we stayed untill about six
in the morning when we left for camp
when we started we saw four rebel
cavalry pickets the was a little to far
across the river for our rifles all is
quiet here now Mr Loomis & Lamberton
was here last wednesday the were well
but there is about half of his men sick
our health is good, you mentioned about
young Bissel, I have inquired about
him he was taken sick on a march
so the had to leave him I think the left
him to a hospital the say he was very
sick. that is all I can tell about
him, we had our pay yesterday I recieved
25 dollars I sent you 25. Mr. Wells sent
it to Mr. Nash. for you he lives down
the main road I paid the expers
on it I recieved sixty cents you
sent me in the letter I am much
obliged to you for it I wish you
would send me some postage stamps

in your next letter for I may have
to write to Jane soon you
mentioned about Mr. Davidson
Money we do not recieve any of
his money here I have not heard
any thing from him since
send me word if you have
traded stones, I have had a
letter from the west I enclose
it to you I have not had any
letter from Jane since nor
I have not had any from Ann
and there is another letter I
have wrote father yet he as
not answered it yet send me
word if you have got all the
money right I won't write again
untill I have answer from this
except there is something elce
turns up so you will pleas
answer this soon you will see by
brothers letter that the expect to move

Fairfax Station Dec 22/62

Dear Wife

with pleasure I take the opportunity to write
a few lines to you once more hoping to find you all
well as it leaves me at present with the exception
of some licks on me I have been unwell for some
time but I am getting over it we have been on
the march since the tenth inst - except two
days we have been here I don't know long we
shall have to stay here we marched thro' this
place and then came back again the roads
was very bad the teams could not get
along some horses died on the way and
some two or three men I tell you it is
hard on both we have to lay right out on
the ground it is very cold there is two
of our men deserted since we left the
ferry they are from our company and
some from other companys I tell you
they are getting discouraged with the
war, our rations is getting small
which makes some dissatisfaction with

with them dear Wife I have been expecting
a letter from you for some time but
have not received any yet I dont know
the reason I am afraid something is
wrong I wrote you the day we left the
ferry and one some time before that
and one to brother William and no
answer to that that I tell you it makes
me uneasy now I hope you will answer
this as soon as possible and tell me all
the news I would like you to send me
two or three postage stamps as I am out
all is quiet here at present I am afraid that
this war is not going to be settled with fighting
our men do not seem to make any progress
we have heard that we had a great loss at
Fredericksburg I hope we may have a better
success the next time, I was sorry to hear
the death of Mary Loomis I think it will
go hard with that family. please send
word what Father has made up his
mind to do for I am anxious to know

now I dont know that I have any more
news at present once more I ask
you to please answer this as soon as
possible for if I dont get any letter I
feell as if I am forgotten when ever you
want to write to me Adress your
letters to Washington and they will come
to us now I must send my kind
love to you all for I often imagine
that I am with you but it is only
like a dream to pass away but still
I hope it wont be long before I shall have
the privilage to be with you. so now I must
conclude with kind love to you from your

Effectionate Husband

adress

John Hilton

Co. F 111th Regt. P. V.

Washington

D. C.

Priscilla Weston Dec 25th

My Dear Mother

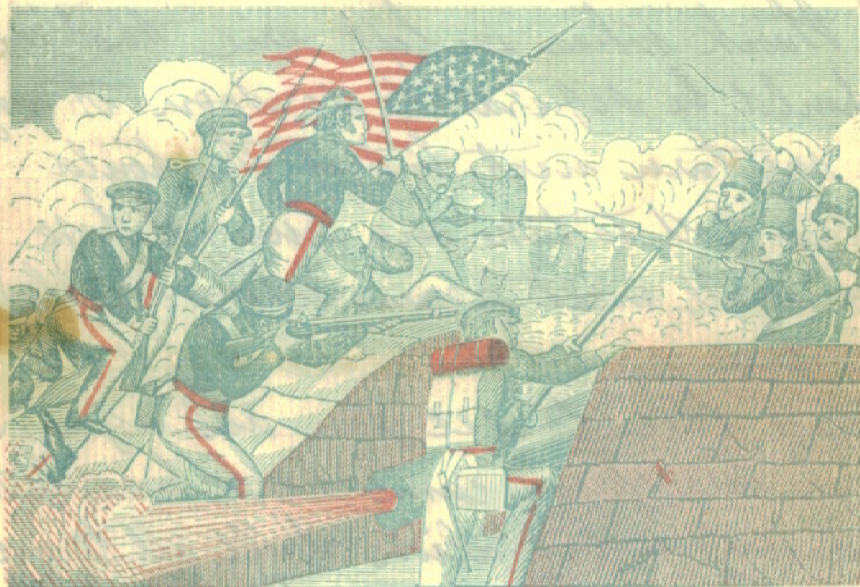
I would have liked to have had you with me on the water
I was very sorry to hear of you being sick but I
hope by the help of God you will get better if
if the gods will to hold you away if it was not
for my education I would have the other
of the field for I would have wanted to come
back again for I think I could have taken
my comfort in that world again, but I
trust you will soon be in good health again
I propose to take particular care of yourself I am
glad that mother and those for I know she
will by all means take good care of you be
carefull and try to not take cold I shall be
wondering what I hear from you again. I am
very pretty good health at present only some
colds on me which needs of daily help I had
not have got better the was going to send me
off to a general hospital but I think I shall be
all right when my time gets well I wrote
you a letter yesterday for I thought it should

that I could not hear from you when ever
you want to write to me address to Washington
if you will come to me there ever we may
perhaps be known where we are all, the kind
I hope the war will be over by spring yet
I should like to come home to see you but
I shall try and make myself and ^{children} wait for
the future. now dear wife I want to know that
letter to close for want of more news try and
keep up good spirits remember if I am not
with you my heart is to try and make
yourself content my kind love to you and
the children and all of you
from your true and loving Husband
John Willton

as been easier you will send me
word if you get all the newspapers
for I send the daily paper this
morning I mailed three for you
the last letter I sent you there
was one from James and one from
brother William we have very fine
weather here now it very warm
in the day time and a little
cool in the night. now dear Mary
I must draw my letter to a close
hoping you will answer this soon
as I am anxious to hear from you
write me a good long one and tell
me all the news give my love to all
the folks and kiss my little pets for
me my health his good and I hope
this will find you all the same.
So no more at present from your most
kind and affectionate husband

John Hilton

These men shot was
P., were soon our own men



"Storming Fort Donelson."

Camp. Mc. Kim. Baltimore, Nov. 23/62

Dear Wife

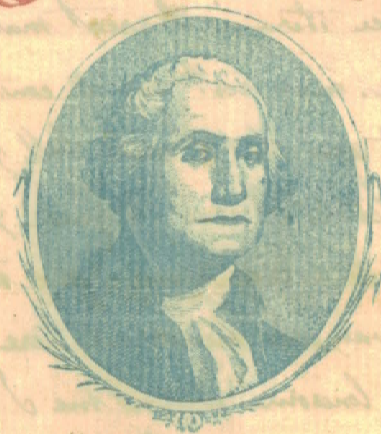
I wrote you last week and was expecting
an answer by this time. but I suppose you
According to Joseph Loomis' letter you were
gone back to Westfield. if so Mr Loomis
will forward them to Westfield to you Joseph
his going to write home tomorrow I told
him to mention it to his father. Dear
Wife I suppose you all take it hard
About George it is hard but it is war
the lords will we will all have to
go when our time comes. little dia

I think when we left erie that we should be seperated so soon it may be my turn next but if it should pleas god to take me away I hope we shall meet again where we shall part no more but still I hope I shall live to see you all again dear Mary. we came back here last tuesday to battalion drill all to once we had orders to go and pack up so when ^{we} got over there was another regiment there the were from virginia. the belong to the Pernal legion so yesterday we had orders to move again and move we did to camp Andrew so this morning about 3 o'clock another regiment came in there and then about 9 o'clock another regiment came in the were from virginia so then we had to sling knapsacks again I dont know how long they will keep us here this time but there is some

talk that we shall have to go to another camp in few days there is A general move among the troops the 17th Massechusetts left here for Burnsidies expedition and tomorrow the Towars leaves for the south I think we will stay here awhile yet for this is A strong secess hole if the dare show it. the say that Journey Gregg his taken prisoner south. it is reported here in camp that there was a man shot threw the head as he was running the gaurd and last night it is said that there was one shot threw the hip the say the say that the first one died and taken away in the night. the say that the colonial as been under arrest for drilling ^{so men} so hard on sundays I hope it so for the last sunday we was here he drilled us very hard all our knapsacks packed this is what the say he got arested for since then it

I am glad that Willie is so Attentive to his Book
you must be carefull and not over do him
tell him pa will buy him some nice things
when he comes home and Estelle the same
it gives me great pleasure when I hear from
you and them I tell you I often imagine
I see you all and I hope the time will
come when I shall ^{have} the pleasure to do so
while I am writing this I have heard that the
man that got shot in the arm some time ago
died yesterday his wife was here to take care of
him I think if he had, had his arm taken of
he whoould not have died, there was A number
sick and wounded came here yesterday some of
them were rebels the latter was put in Fort Mc Henry
they are fitting up our old barricks for the wounded
soldiers I think if there had not have been so many sick
in our regiment we would have been away from here before now
I dont know how long we shall stay here At present, last
Thursday night the long roll was given between one and two o'clock
in the morning there was not one of us knew it, we formed in line of
battle we did not know were we was going the word march was
given we went throo Baltimore it was day light when we
got back Again. I sopsose Anna is as much of an old maid
as ever, you will pleas give my kind love to all inquiring friends
and espesially to you who I cannot give to much to, and to our
dear little pets. so now I must conclude bidding you all good
bye untill you hear from me Again from your most kind and
loving Husband John Hilton P.S. write soon

WASHINGTON



1776.

1861.

Headquarters

III

Reg't. Co. F

Camp Dix, Baltimore, 1862.

My Dear Wife,

With pleasure I recieved your kind letter yesterday
and also glad to hear that you are all well as it leaves
me at present thank god for it. there as been another
death in the regiment since I wrote you before
there is not so many sick as there was, dear Wife
I am sorry that I give you so much anxiety of mind
on my Account. I hope you will forgive me for not
answering yours sooner one reason was that we were
expecting our pay and another was that I was out of
change I know that I have spent A little to

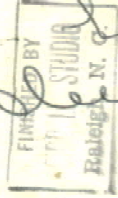
much the first pay we had but now I am very carefull
I wont as drink A glass of beer nor I wont as long as I
am in the service there is A great many temptations here
but dear Wife you may rest yourself content on my part
there is A great deal that I could tell you that I wont
mention in A letter, it was all false you heard About
them that was to be hung nor I did not hear of any
woman that was ~~was~~ murdered here, dear Wife you
say that you are lonesome without me I know that it is
not quite so comfortable I think we may as well
all be home for what good we are doing, we are in
our tents I dont like them near so well as the old
barricke there is hardly room enough to turn round
there is some that thinks we will be discharged in
two months if we was discharged now I dont think
I would come home if the would let me of I think
I would go east, except it should be your wish to
come home. I had A letter from home brother writes
that the are talking of coming east next fall and
wants my advice About it I dont hardly know
what to say About it but I think I will tell
them to pleas there self they want to go farming
near Westfield or Fredonia but still I think the

would do better then what the do west I have not heard
from Sam since I wrote I am Afraid I did not put
the write direction on the letter I forgot to write the
directions before I enclose it to you so if you will
send me the Address I shall be much obliged to you
pleas write it plain. I think I shall speak to the
captain About George, close I will try and get him
to send them next week the captain is very careless
I had four dollars and twenty five cents of Georges
money so you can settle with your folks send me
word if the have recieved any more of his pay yet
I am sorry that you cannot get that money from
Partridge I think you had better see Mr Lomax
or Mr Blane About it, it may be that the
can get it for you I think he has mean that
he dont pay it if there is any chance of
getting it I want them to get it, it may be
that you can let some one have it for the
interest. I am glad that Elizebeth is going
back to N. York, I think your folks will have A
little more peace I feel sorry for your
folks I hope the will get Along this season
now dear Wife I must come to A close soon



The Hollows

1st time
our new



development

of Green Acres

(our first home seen

E 6