

RICHARD BAPTIS

Camp Proctor March 7th 1862

Dear Sister

I have just received your loving & long wished for letter and I am happy to hear you are all well. I have wrote to you twice and have received no answer to my letters, which made me think that you left Brooklyn or else I would wrote again. I am in the best of health and was since I left Brooklyn. This regiment that I belong to is stationed about 3 miles off Washington guarding the main roads to and from the city. There is over 15,000 thousand men around here encamped ready at a moment's warning to have a 'free and easy' with Cousin Jeff Davis. My ???????? if they and us would meet, and as they want – be so kind and come and take Washington, we are under marching orders to visit them and give them a good treat for their misbehavior towards Uncle Sam's children. We are armed with the Springfield rifle and each man is supplied with 120 rounds of rifle ball cartridge our Brigadier General is Keyes. This morning about half-past-one we were roused up out of beds for to start over to Virginia and are waiting for the word march. We have everything ready and all the boys is in their Glory with the prospect of sharing in with Our Brave Companions in arms who have gone before us. And now Dear Sister I hope you will send me all particulars in your next and give my kind love to Father and John & Edward, Also to all inquiring friends and I now conclude By sending my kindest affectionate Love and remain your affectionate Brother

Richard Baptis

Reply

To **Richard Baptis**

Comp'y F 1st Regt Long Island Volunteers Camp Proctor near Washinton, D.C.

In care of Captain Van Ness Comp'y F

*Stamped in red: **May 27 1891 285207** and in red, a signature **Eud-5 (?)***

Fair Oaks Virginia
Dear Sister

June 27th 1862

I take this opportunity to answer your welcome letter, dated the 9th instant and I Glad to hear of you all Being in Good health. So far I have enjoyed Good health all along since I left Brooklyn. Thank God, But at present I feel very poorly. I have Been poorly these past two or three weeks, and I don't get better shortly, I will apply for my discharge. We had a severe struggle at the Battle of the 31st of May, and the 1st ultima(?) the Boys fought Bravely and laid many a rebel Bite the Dust. We fought them and kept them at Bay, for over two hours, till our reinforcements came to our relief. When they, the rebels, had to give way, they were treble our Number. And at one time we had to contend with 8 regiments, they trying to flank us right and left. We are satisfied and ready to be at them again, for we have every confidence, Both in our Generals and officers, for Our own Colonel, there is not a more Braver, he astonished us when the Battle was raging. By his coolness, he was smoking his pipe at the time, and cheering us up, while he rode up & down. So cool, our company lost 4 killed and seven wounded, including our Captain. For our regimental loss we cant give a sure account on account of a lot missing. It was a awful sight to look at the field and woods the day after it was so strewed with the Dead. The loss of the rebels was enormous as we had to Bury them and as their own Army fled towards Richmond, their loss compared to ours must be about 10 to 1 of ours, according by the numbers found Dead on the Battle field not saying anything about the wounded that was taking away by them, nor by us. Besides the prisoners that was taken. My opinion is, of this rebellion, that the sooner the secessionists come under the Old flag again the Better for them. All I wish is that my Brother John will escape from the Horrors of the Battle field. It's no pleasant price to pay to wish for to be. And I pray God this last call for more men will not be needed, and that peace will be restored Over this once happy land. Now Dear Mary I must conclude by sending you, My Dear father & Brother my kind and affectionate Love and will remain your affectionate Brother& Son.

Richard Baptis

Write as soon as you receive this and Direct
To Richard Baptis
Comp'y F 1st Regt Long Island Volunteers
Gen'l Abercrombie's Brigade, Couchs Division near Richmond Virginia
Via Fortress Monroe

*Stamped in red: **May 27 1891 285207** and in red, a signature **Eud-5 (?)***

HQters. 1st L. I. Reg,t
April 25th 1863

Miss Baptis,

Your favor of April 23rd is at hand, and I sincerely regret that I have no better news for you – Your Brother **Richard** was taken sick on the peninsula (*captured June 27th, 1862, died in Richmond as POW Aug. 15th, 1862*)– and I had him sent to the Hospital at Savage Station, a few days after, you are perhaps aware, I was myself wounded and that Hospital taken by the rebels – and of course those in it have been taken prisoners – Your Brother must have been one – since then I have heard nothing of him – tho, believe me – I have made every effort to find him – for I was much attached to the men of my command – and to their fidelity to me I owe my life. You can write me from time to time – if I hear of – or find him – I will answer

Truly Yours

Major H.L. Van Ness

Stamped in red: May 27 1891 285207 and a note on the back ‘letter from Major HL Van Ness’ April 25 – 1863

War Department

Adjutant General's Office,

Washington, Sept 1st, 1863

Madam:

In reply to your communication of the 25th of August 1863, I have the honor to state that Robert (*should be Richard*) Baptist is reported on the Muster Rolls of Company F, 1st Regiment Long Island Volunteers, for the months of July & August 1862, absent-sick, sent to Hospital, Rolls for March & April 1863 the latest on file he is reported 'Deserted: not heard from since July 1, 1862

A letter directed.....will reach him
I am, sir, very respectfully, Your obedient servant

Sam Peck (?)

To Miss Mary L. Baptist
Williamsburg

(copy) : Subject: Desertion

*War Department
Washington City,
May 28, 1891*

Messrs Butts & Phillips, Attys.

Washington, D.C.

Gentleman:

Referring to the application for removal of charge of desertion in the case of Richard Baptist, as of Company "F" 67 Regt, New York Volunteers. I am directed by the Secretary of War to inform you that upon investigation it has been determined that said charge is erroneous, and a notation to that effect has been made upon the official records.

This soldier was captured by the enemy on June 27" 1862, and died on Aug. 15" 1862, at Richmond , Va., while a prisoner of War.

The inclosures accompanying your letter , are herewith returned.

Very respectfully,

F.C. Ainsworth,
Major and Surgeon, U.S. Army.

EDWARD BAPTIS

Camp near White Oak Church May 23rd 1863

Dear Sister

I now take the opportunity to write these few lines to you to let you know that I am well and I hope these few lines find you all the same. I received your letters and papers yesterday and I was glad to hear from you, that is a first rate likeness of yours, I wish I had Fathers too. Things go on the same as usual out here. I have not seen Charley since the morning we was in Fredericksburgh that was before we Charged on the heights. You saw that picture on the first page. There is where our Brigade Charged and Captured 2 of the guns belonging to Celebrated Washington artilry. The last letter I got from John he was down to new Orleans. I got one letter from him since he got out there. I have not heard anything about poor Richard yet we have only about 10 months more to serve. I guess I have no more to say at present. Give my love to Father and tell him to put a few lines in your next letter if it won't take him more than 5 minutes and if he don't why all right, so good Bye.

your affectionate Brother

Edward Baptis

S. Thalers Brigade, Ledgwicks Corps,
Army of the Potomac

Boonsboro, MD July 9, 1863

Dear Father,

I now take the opportunity to write these few lines to you to let you know that I am well and I hope these few lines find you all the same. I suppose you have heard about the Fight at Gettysburg. We gave them fits. Such a roar of artilry the men say they never heard before. Our boys mowed them down like grass. I have not had anytime to write any oftener, for we are marching all the time following them up as fast we can. Can not write anymore at present. I wish you would send me some money, 3 or 4 dollars as quick as you can. Write as soon as received, So good Bye, give my love to Louisa and aunt Eliza and all the Folks.

You affectionate

Son Edward Baptis

Edward Baptis
1st Reg Long Island Volunteers, Co F, Thalers Brigade,
Washington or elsewhere

Camp near Washington Aug 9 1863

Dear Father,

I now take the opportunity to write these few lines to you to let you know that I am well and I hope this may find you the same. I received Louisa's letter and I was glad to hear you was all well. We have been encamped here about a week now, but it's a very hot place out here. There is plenty of blackberries and apples and that is about all there is here. I got a letter from John the other day and I suppose he will think hard because I did not answer it , but I could not get any paper and envelopes and I wish you would send me some. I guess I have no more to say at present so good Bye. Give my love to Aunt Eliza and all the rest of the folks.

Your Affectionate Son

Edward Baptis

1st Regt Long Island Volunteers, Co. F

Answer as soon as received, in haste.

(different handwriting- in pencil- from brother Edward)

Camp near Warrenton Sep 4 1863

Dear Sister

I now take this opportunity to write to you to let you know that I am well and I hope this may find you all the same. Things go on the same as usual out here. The weather keeps hot in the day and Cold at night. I suppose you got the last letter I sent you and I sent John one the same time, But I have not got any answer to it yet. I suppose there is Pretty Stirring times with the draft in Brooklyn but they are deserting as fast as they get here. But that will soon be stopped when they commence shooting them. They have brought about 20 of them belonging to one of the regiments in our Brigade and I suppose they will shoot some of them and it will serve them right. I wish that this mess was settled so that we could go to Old John Bull and give him a dose. It would do a fellow good. But I guess I have no more to say at present so good Bye.

Your affectionate Brother

Edward Baptis

PS don't forget to send those things Whatever you do.

(on a piece of paper with the poem “ The two Roses” printed on the top different handwriting- in pencil- from brother Edward)

Camp near Catlett Station Oct 12 1863

Dear Sister

I now take the present opportunity to write these few lines to you hoping they may find you all in good health. As this leaves me at present I received you letter day before yesterday but I could not answer it before. Our Division is guarding the railroad from Culpepper to Alexandria. We have been here about a week now. We may stay here all Winter if the army don't fall back. Everything goes on the same as usual out here. So John will be home this week, tell him if he thinks of coming out again to come out here they are trying to get all the Old troops to enlist again for 3 years and 402 dollars bounty and let them go home until the Spring and I guess they will get the best part of them back. I guess I have no more to say at present. Tell Molly I guess a soldier and a parrot would not agree together. Give my love to Father and all the rest of the Folks.

your affectionate Brother

Edward Baptis

Camp near Brandy Station Nov 13 1863

Dear Sister

I now take the present opportunity to write these few lines to you to let you know that I am well and I hope these few lines will find you all the same. I received your kind and welcome letter of the 10th but I have not got any papers since the first you sent me. I am glad to hear that John is home again. Our Colonel is trying to get the regiment home to recruit up again and if he does We are all going to reenlist. We had another fight at Rapahannock Station. The Ball opened at half past 2 on Saturday and by night we had possession of their forts and a Pontoon Bridge, 5 pieces of artillery and 8 stands of colors, making a pretty good haul for once Our Corps. I believe I have no more to say at present so good Bye until the next. Give my love to Father and all the rest of the Folks. The next paper you send, send me some Tobacco send me some as soon as you get this.

your affectionate Brother

Edward Baptis

PS If we get home to recruit we will get there about the last of this month.

Johnson's Island Jan.24th 1864

Dear Sister,

I now take the opportunity to write these few lines to you to let you know that I am well and I hope this may find you the same. I received your kind and welcome letter and I was sorry that I could not get home with the regiment, but I guess the rest of us will get home by the 20th of June. We have been here near a week and it is quite a nice place. We go over to the city of Sandusky every once and awhile. The Lake is froze over. We may stay here until our time is up. There is about 2,500 rebel Officers imprisoned here. The weather is pretty cold down here to what it was at Brandy Station. But we got good quarters here, plenty to eat and nothing to do but guard, and if we want to make any money we can make a dollar a day piling wood. We have a fine time skating here. I guess I have no more to say at present.

Your Affectionate Brother

Edward Baptis

Direct to Johnson's Island, Ohio



Johnson's Island Feb. 3rd, 1864

Dear Sister,

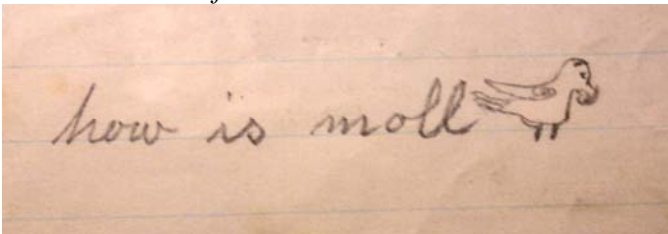
I now take the opportunity to write these few lines to you to let you know that I am well and I hope this may find you all the same. I received your kind and welcome letter and was glad to hear from you I got John's letter the same time but I did not get the one Father sent me and I was very sorry, but tell him to write again and let me know how Dennis Murphy and the rest of the boys is, if they is working in the yard. Yet I was sorry you got disappointed about me coming home, but I guess we will be back home by the 20th of June. We got good quarters here so we have not got anything to complain of. The weather is pretty cold here, the ice broke up the other day but it is frozen over again this morning and the boys is crossing on it already. It is quite a nice place, the city, but there is no place for amusement only once and awhile a Ball or Concert. We have not got paid in 4 months and I would like you to send me some tobacco and papers and send me some stamps and put a pipe in. I guess I have no more to say. Tell John I got his letter but I could not answer it for the want of paper. How about those young ladies you did not tell me their names, that is a good way to do business. Send their names. Give my love to father and the rest of the Folks, not forgetting the young ladies and Annie.

Your Affectionate Brother

Edward Baptis

Direct to Edward Baptis Co. F, 1st Long Island Volunteers
Johnson's Island, Sandusky, Ohio

Pencil cartoon of a bird and the words "how is moll"



Camp near White Oak Church April 6, 1864

Dear Sister

I now take the opportunity to write these few lines to you to let you know that I am well and I hope these few lines may find you all the same. I received your kind and welcome letter. I suppose John is in for it now I hope he will have a good tome of it as I have had. We will soon be in for it again. I suppose now the roads is drying up there is some talks about crossing the river again, but I think we will have a hard time of it trying to drive them out of their earthworks. They have got their batteries planted in the woods while we have the open field. I have not seen Charley yet. We had some snow here yesterday but it has all melted away today. We were reviewed by Gen. Joe Hooker last Saturday. But I guess I have no more to say at present so good bye. Give my love to Father and Eliza and all enquiring friends and keep the best part of it for your self.

You Brother

Edward Baptis

(in pen with better script)

Camp near White Oak Church April 14, 1864

Dear Sister

I now take the opportunity to write these few lines to you to let you know that I am well and I hope these few lines may find you all the same. I received your letter on Sunday and I got one from John last night we had not started from the Island yet. I have not got much to say for we have got to be ready to march by 10 o'clock and it is 3 now. I think we will have a fight before long. It is rumored that we are going across the river again. Capt. Van Ness is Major of Regiment now. I have not heard anything from Richard yet. I would like you to send me a couple of dollars to get some tobacco. I thought we would get paid before this. I guess I have no more to say. Give my love to father and Eliza and all the enquiring friends.

You affectionate Brother

Edward Baptis

In hosp Fredericksburg May 21, 1864

Dear Sister

I now take the opportunity to write these few lines to you to let you know now I am getting along. I have been pretty bad. I got struck in the arm and side and it touched the left lung slightly, but I kept my spirits praying to the Lord through all my pain and I tried to feel happy in the Faith of the Lord. I feel in first rate spirits.

Your loving Brother

Edward Baptis.

(re.) Edward Baptis

Fredericksburg, Va.

Hospital, 6th Corps, 2nd Division

To: John Baptis; *(the Father of Edward)*

My dear sir;

Your son is among the wounded in this city. He is in *Illegible* condition & wishes me to write you. His recovery is exceedingly doubtful. His wound is in the side. He has good attention – as good as can be found in this city. Hope that you are a Christian & will go to God for comfort.

Faithfully *re*

To P. Feitsworth (?)

Delegate to the U.S.C.C. *(US Christian Commission)*

May 19th 1864

Dear Lady, I found your brother a few days ago very poorly & for myself I thought his case a very doubtful one, since which time I have been daily visiting him ministering to his comfort and encouraging him & find he is improving. I now have strong hopes of his recovery. He says I shall tell his Father not to be disheartened. He today is lively and cheerful. I am a member of the U. S. Christian Commission & reside at Gettysburg, Pa. I am respectfully

E Ziegler

John Baptiste = Mary Wright

Left 7 children:

- 1- **Richard**. bachelor, **killed in the rebellion**
- 2- Harriet, died in infancy
- 3- Mary Louise, maiden, died Dec. 17, 1916
- 4- John = Elizabeth Searles, 2 children
- 5- **Edward**, **killed in the rebellion**
- 6- William, died in infancy
- 7- Margaret, died in infancy

