James Montgomery correspondence

Section 2, Pages 31 - 60

James Montgomery was a well known Kansas "jayhawker." Born in Ohio in 1814, Montgomery moved to Kentucky, taught school, and became a minister in the "Campbellite" church. Then he went to Missouri where he lived with his second wife until soon after the passage of the Kansas-Nebraska Act of 1854. Montgomery purchased a claim in Linn County, near Mound City, and quickly became a recognized leader of the free-state movement. A complete transcription is available by clicking "Text Version" below.

Creator: Montgomery, James, 1814-1871

Date: 1861-1862

Callnumber: James Montgomery Coll. #446, Box 1

KSHS Identifier: DaRT ID: 225690

Item Identifier: 225690

www.kansasmemory.org/item/225690

[Coll. Montgomery, James] Child
KANSAS STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY.
3403

Wayland, Mass Dec. 26th 1861.

To Col. Montgomery.

Dear and honored friend,

Thus I address you, though I never saw you. All sincere friends of the oppressed seem to me like brothers; and your name is peculiarly endeared to me by the accounts I have often had of you from my beloved relatives Mr. and Mrs. Stearns, of Medford. They sympathize with all that is good and true; and since John Brown's spirit ascended to Him who gave it, I think no man has more of their respect, than your honored self.

Always I am watching Kansas hopefully and lovingly. I have ever believed that God baptized her infancy with fire, because He thereby intended to set His seal upon her, for a great work of Freedom He had appointed her to perform. Are you not now verifying this prophetic feeling of my soul? Are there any regiments, except those from Kansas, on whom we can rely, with certainty, as the protectors of poor hunted slaves? For the last half year, I have been unable to share the popular enthusiasm for the American Flag. When I saw it everywhere floating on the breeze, I turned from it with tears, for there was always present a vision of the chained African bleeding beneath its gayly-tinted folds.

I have wanted to work for the army, but I felt no heart to do it, so long as I read accounts of poor trembling fugitives surrendered by our officers. I did not blame our soldiers. I knew their feelings generally revolted from such base work; but so long as it was done, it completely chilled the enthusiasm I should naturally have felt for my country. I looked earnestly toward Kansas; and Kansas, noble young Kansas, has fulfilled my expectations. For a month past, I have been working for your regiment, and I have put my heart into every stitch; for I know that the hands and feet I help to cover will never move one inch to help tyrants recover their slaves. God bless you, for proving yourselves worthy of the work whereunto He has called you!

Will our country be saved? Or have we persevered in wrong, till our chance has gone by? I try to possess my soul in patience, and to make all reasonable allowances for the difficult position in which the U. S. government is placed; but really it is a trying position for the people to be out at sea in such a tempest, with no captain or pilot on board the national ship; doing nothing but drifting before the storm.

Yet there may be a Providence in this also. God may be driving us into a better port than any earthly ruler would have steered for. My courage has never flagged, until this recent news from England. Appearances look as if that

haughty nation had pre-determined to make war upon us, and was only watching for a pretext. If so, war she will have, let us do what we may. Her conservatives, like all the conservatives of Europe, have always cherished a jealousy and dislike of our republican form of government. They would be glad to see it crushed. They do not want to have it proved that the people can govern themselves. The distracting com-plications of the present crisis offers a favorable opportunity for the despotism of Europe to unite with the despotism of the South for the overthrow of free institutions. If they should succeed, can we say that we have not deserved it? Having so perseveringly aided in fastening chains upon others, do we deserve liberty for ourselves?

Yet my belief is that God will deal with us better than we deserve, that the fire through which we pass will purify and not consume us. Better this fierce ordeal, than the drowsy degeneracy preceding this war.

"If, for the age to come, this hour
Of trial hath vicarious power,
And, blest by Thee, our present pain
Be Liberty's eternal gain,
Thy will be done!"

Perhaps a war with England is necessary to concentrate all our energies; to make us really in earnest, as we have not yet

5

been; to drive us to accept the services of the despised negroes. If so, terrible as is the prospect of another war, I bow my head in resignation, and say, "Thy will be done!"

It seems mean, as well as wicked, in England to attack us now; but candor compels me to admit that our conduct toward her was not more noble. When she was struggling for existence against the combined power of Europe, we took that opportunity to make war upon her for an offence which might have been easily settled by negotiation, and which was of so little importance, that we forgot to mention it in the treaty of peace. But then England ought to remember that it was the slave holding oligarchy who urged on that war. Strange alliance this, of England with slave-holders!

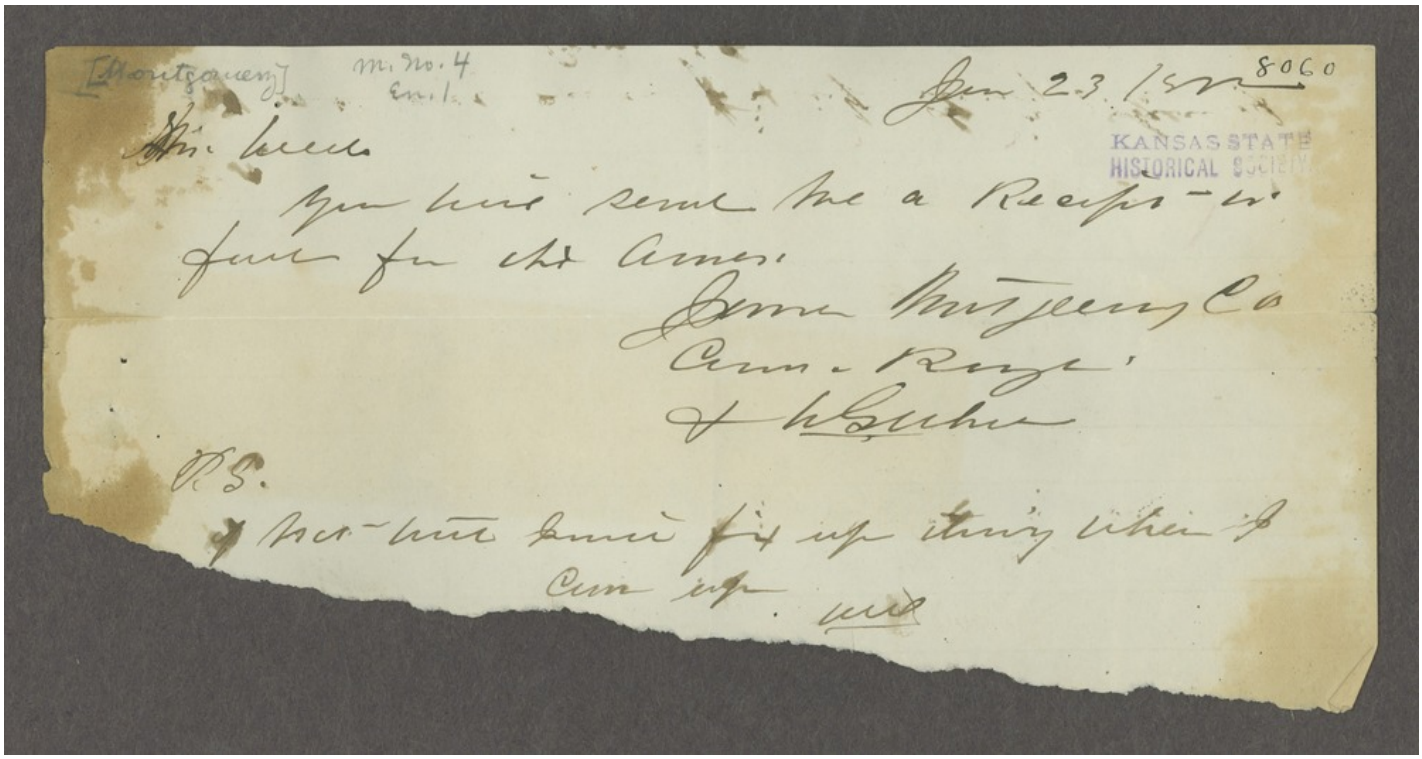
I send you herewith some pamphlets. They are not needed for your conversion, or for that of your noble comrades, but perhaps you can put them to some good use. I also send some songs, which may help to enliven the tedium of the camp. I have knit two pair of socks and a pair of mittens, and a pair of suspenders for you, which I hope will prove comfortable. I enclose in the same parcel a pair of mittens without your initial. I knit them for John Brown jr. but I do not know where he is. If he is in your vicinity, please give them to him, with my blessing. If he is distant, give the mittens to whoever you think best.

May our Heavenly Father guide you, and protect you, and keep you strong for the arduous work whereunto you are called.

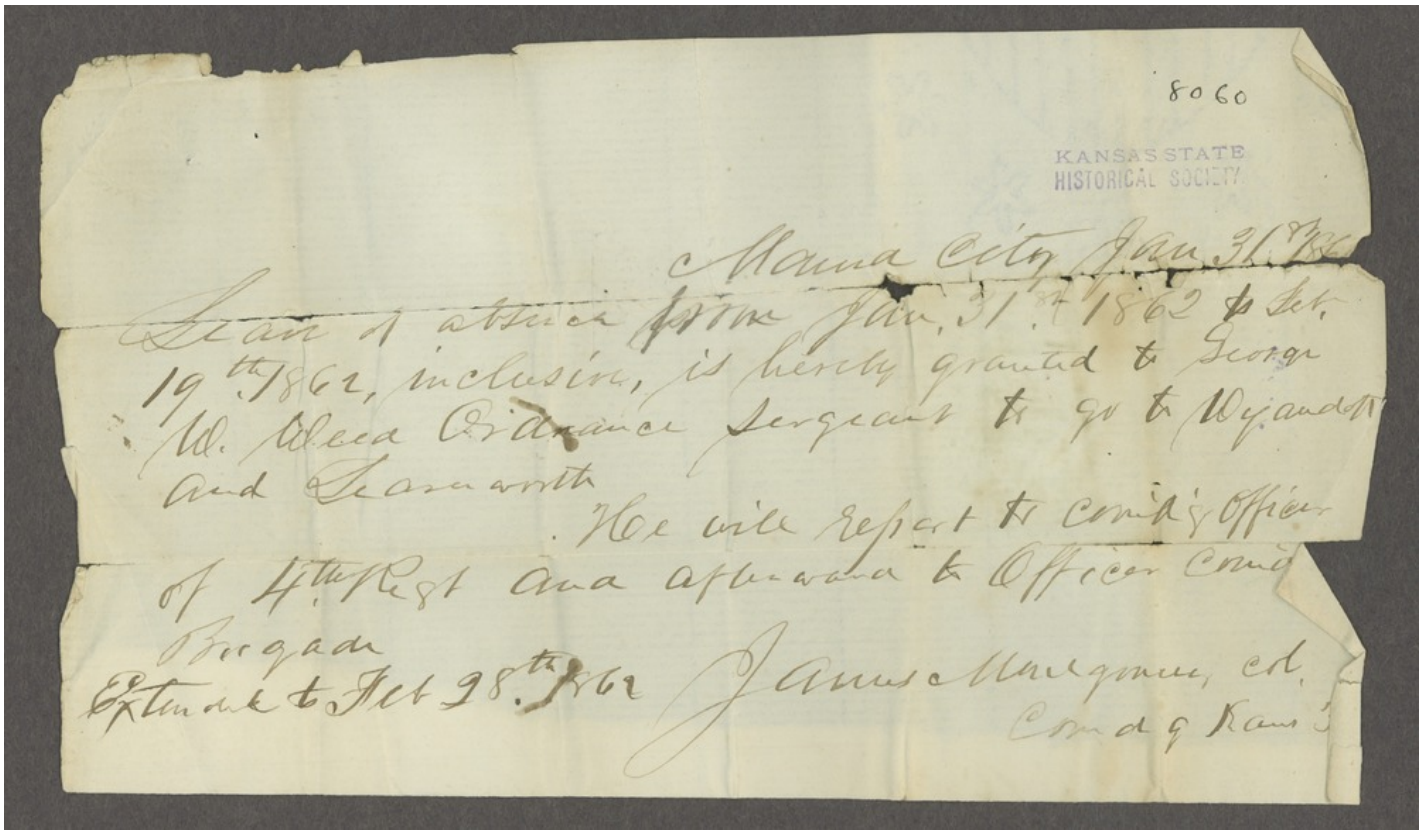
Yours with respectful affection, and heartfelt gratitude,

L. Maria Child.

James Montgomery correspondence

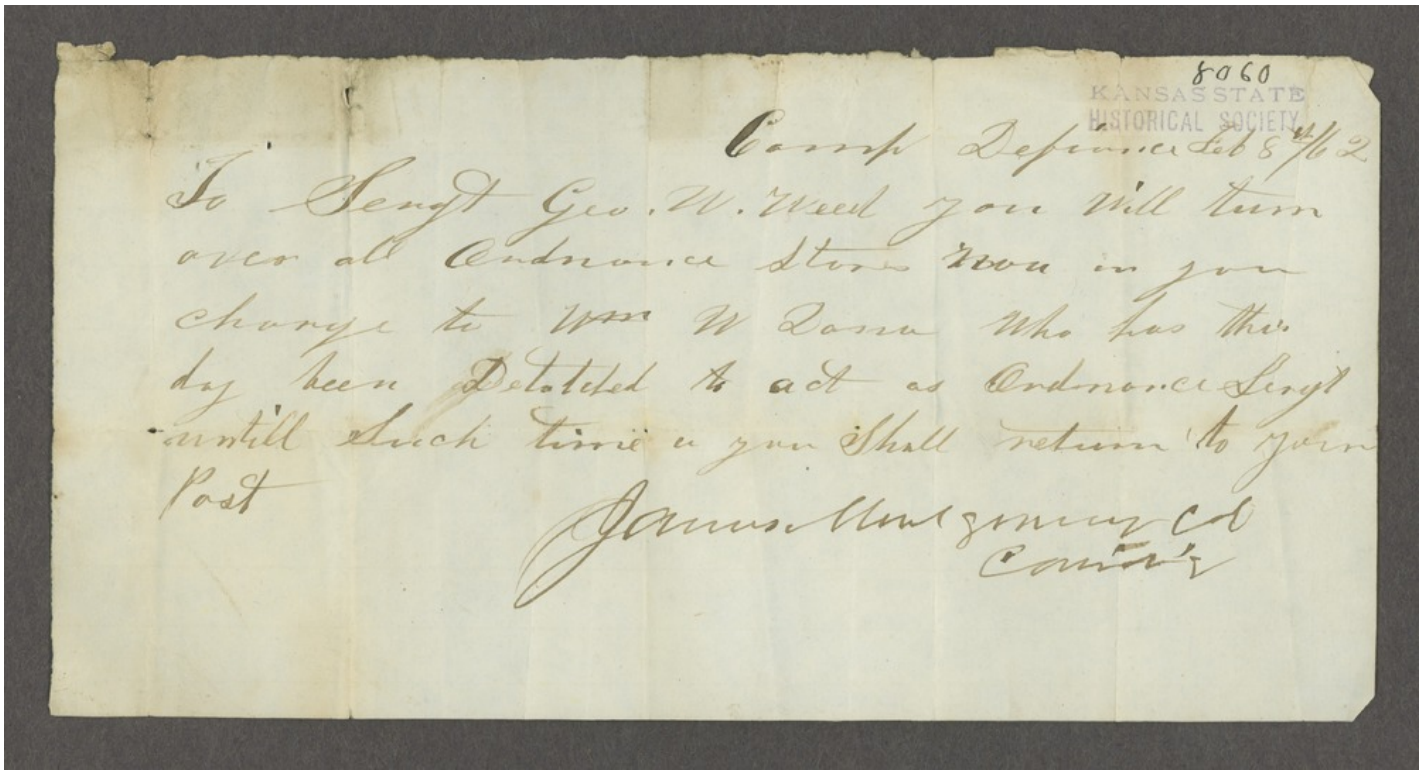


James Montgomery correspondence



Mound City Jan 31st 186
Leave of absence from Jan. 31st 1862 to Feb.
19th 1862, inclusive, is hereby granted to Georg
W. Oleen Orderly Sergeant to go to Wyandott
and Leavenworth
. He will report to Comd'g Officer
of 4th Regt and afterwards to Officer Comd
Brigade
Extended to Feb 28th 1862 James Montgomery Col.
Comd'g Kans

James Montgomery correspondence


8060
KANSAS STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Camp Defiance Feb 8 1862

To Sergt Geo. W. Reed you will turn over all Ordnance Stores now in your charge to Wm W Dana Who has this day been Detailed to act as Ordnance Sergt until such time as you shall return to your Post

James Montgomery Col
Comdg

M-4-1

Confidential (Thompson) 3403

Leavenworth Mch. 7. 1862

Col James Montgomery

KANSAS STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

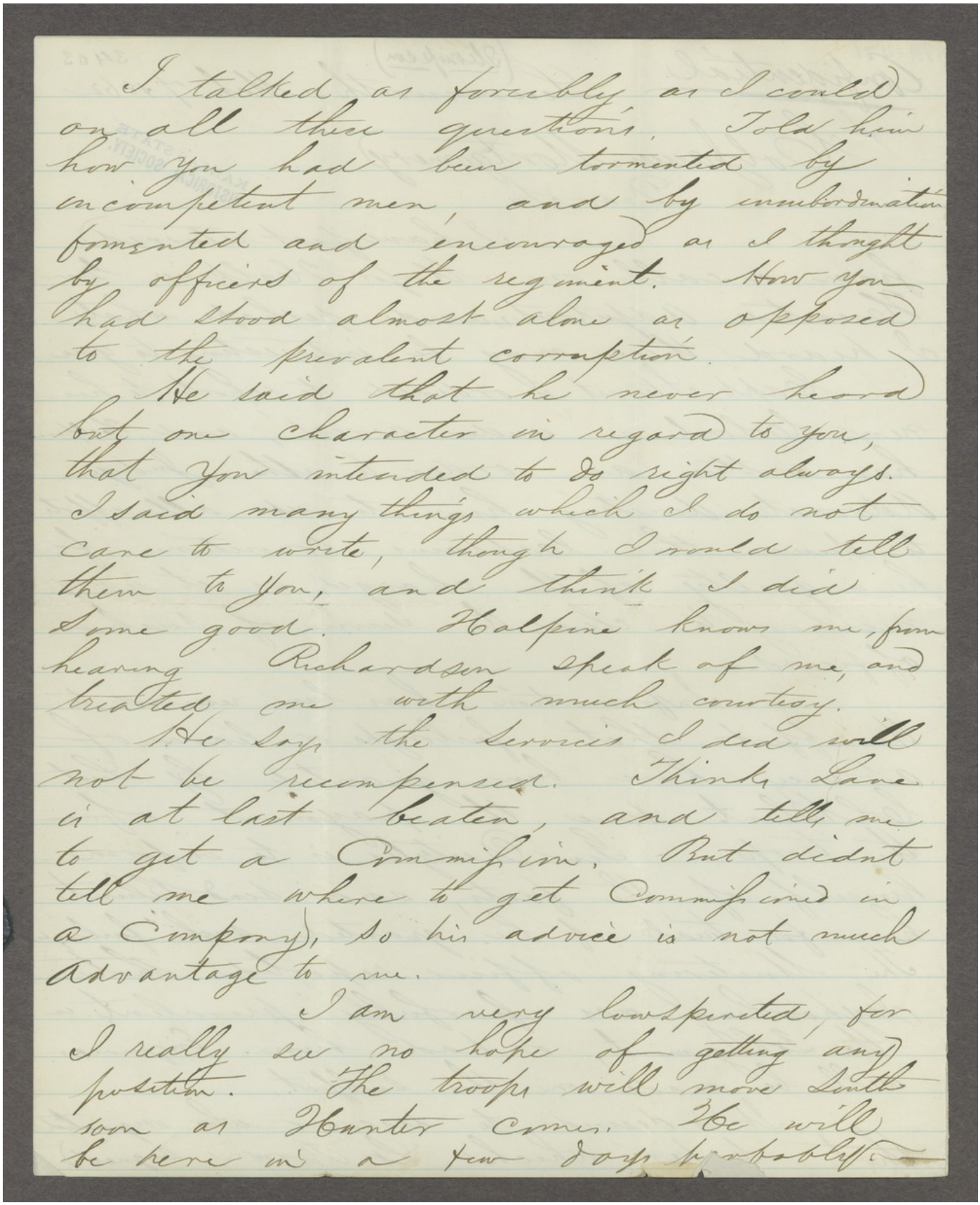
Dear Sir.

I have just returned from a call on Major Halpine, Gen Hunters adjutant, and perhaps what I heard there may be interesting to you.

Capt Stewart is ordered to report to his new Colonel, as "under arrest", and Halpine has written an order to the Judge Advocate directing him to use all efforts to secure the Captains conviction if he is guilty of the charges, as it is very necessary to clear the Service of such officers.—

Information has been received to the effect that furlough or leaves of absence have been granted by Lieut Col Blunt since the payment of the troops. Gen Deitzler is to inform himself of the facts, and send Blunt here for trial if he granted such furloughs. The Mustering officer reported that Jayhawking was fearfully prevalent in the 3d Regiment, or had been. Enquiries will be made on this subject.

It is desired to discover who originated that letter which Lt Brown signed.

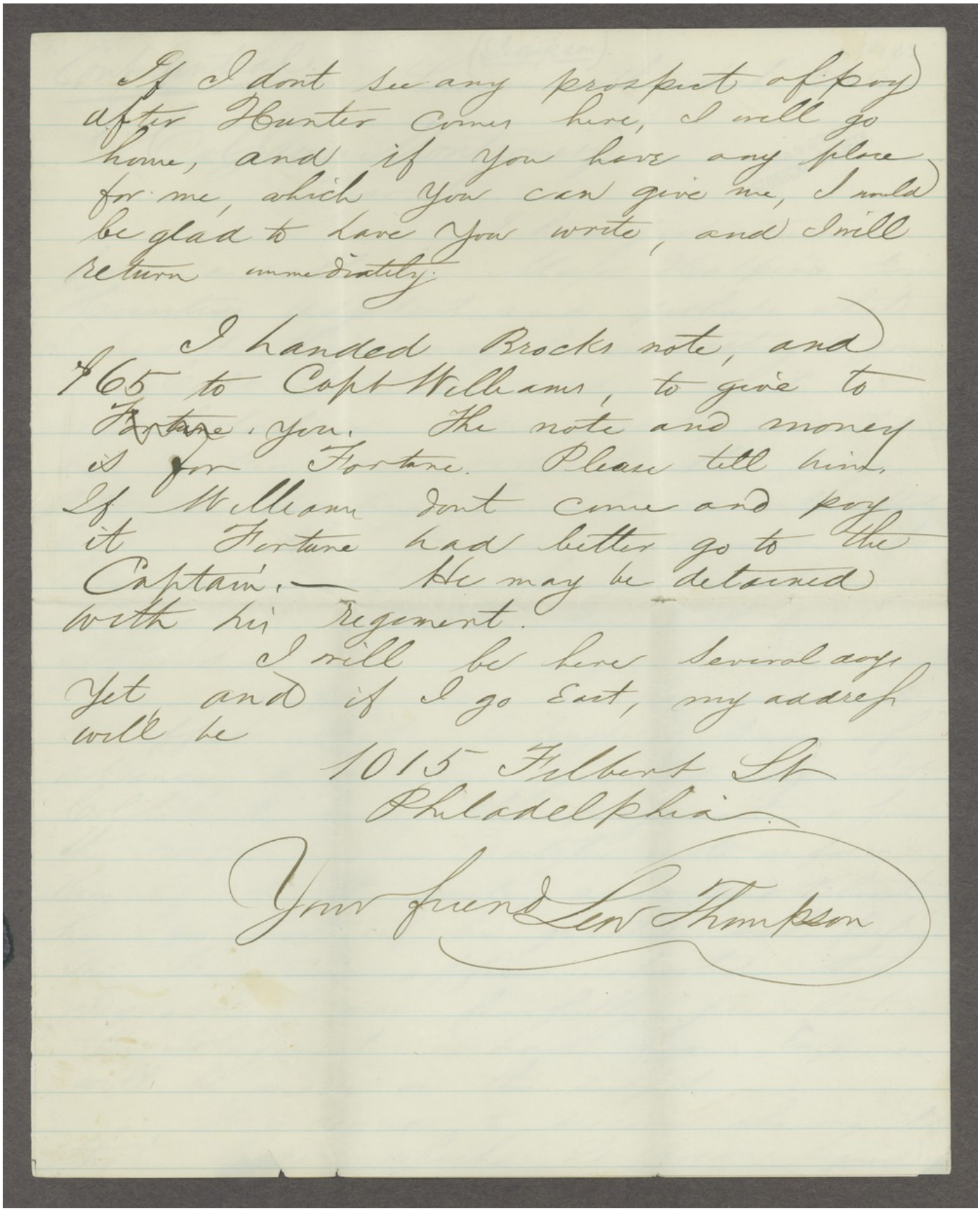


I talked as forcibly as I could on all these questions. Told him how you had been tormented by incompetent men, and by insubordination fomented and encouraged as I thought by officers of the regiment. How you had stood almost alone as opposed to the prevalent corruption.

He said that he never heard but one character in regard to you, that you intended to do right always. I said many things which I do not care to write, though I would tell them to you, and think I did some good. Halpine knows me, from hearing Richardson speak of me, and treated me with much courtesy.

He says the services I did will not be recompensed. Think Lane is at last beaten, and tells me to get a Commission. But didnt tell me where to get Commissioned in a Company, so his advice is not much advantage to me.

I am very low spirited, for I really see no hope of getting any position. The troops will move South soon as Hunter comes. He will be here in a few days probably.



If I dont see any prospect of pay after Hunter comes here, I will go home, and if you have any place for me, which you can give me, I wild be glad to have you write, and I will return immediatly.

I handed Brocks note, and $65 to Capt Williams, to give to Fortune. You. The note and money is for Fortune. Please tell him, If Williams dont come and pay it Fortune had better go to the Captain. — He may be detained with his Regement.

I will be here several days yet and if I go East, my address will be

1015 Filbert St
Philadelphia

Your friend Lew Thompson

3405
KANSAS STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

Fort Scott Kas. Apr 1st 1862

Col Montgomery

Dear Sir.

I have not heard of the contemplated change in your regiment which you speak of. and trust that we may have the pleasure and profit of your continuance in the Service. With regard to the Guerilla Parties in Bates County. I will endeavour to check them as soon as I get more specific instructions from department Head Quarters. At Present I scarcely dare venture to detatch my Cabalry very far as I am expecting marching orders for them. Will you have the Kindness to instruct your adjutant to inform me fully of the orders to report. to whom. and where which the companies of your regmt have that are now Stationed at Aubrey

I have the honor to remain

Very Respectfully

Your Obdt Servt.

Col Chas Doubleday

Act Brig Gen

Commdg Post

KANSAS STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY. 3403

(Lt. Ruth's Letter)

Head Quarters Mans 10th Regt
Camp Bull, May 31st 1862

Col. Montgomery

Sir

You may doubtless be surprised at my audacity in thus writing to you but I think you will look over the deed and forgive when you have read this and have become acquainted with the reasons of my writing to you.

You doubtless know by this time that the part of your original command (the 3d) now consolidated with the Fourth are in trouble We have been thrown under the command of a man we utterly detest and who we believe will deal out tyranny unto us with a bountifull hand. In view of this we like wayward prodigal children desire to return to our father and once more with honest repentance declare our willingness to be called his children

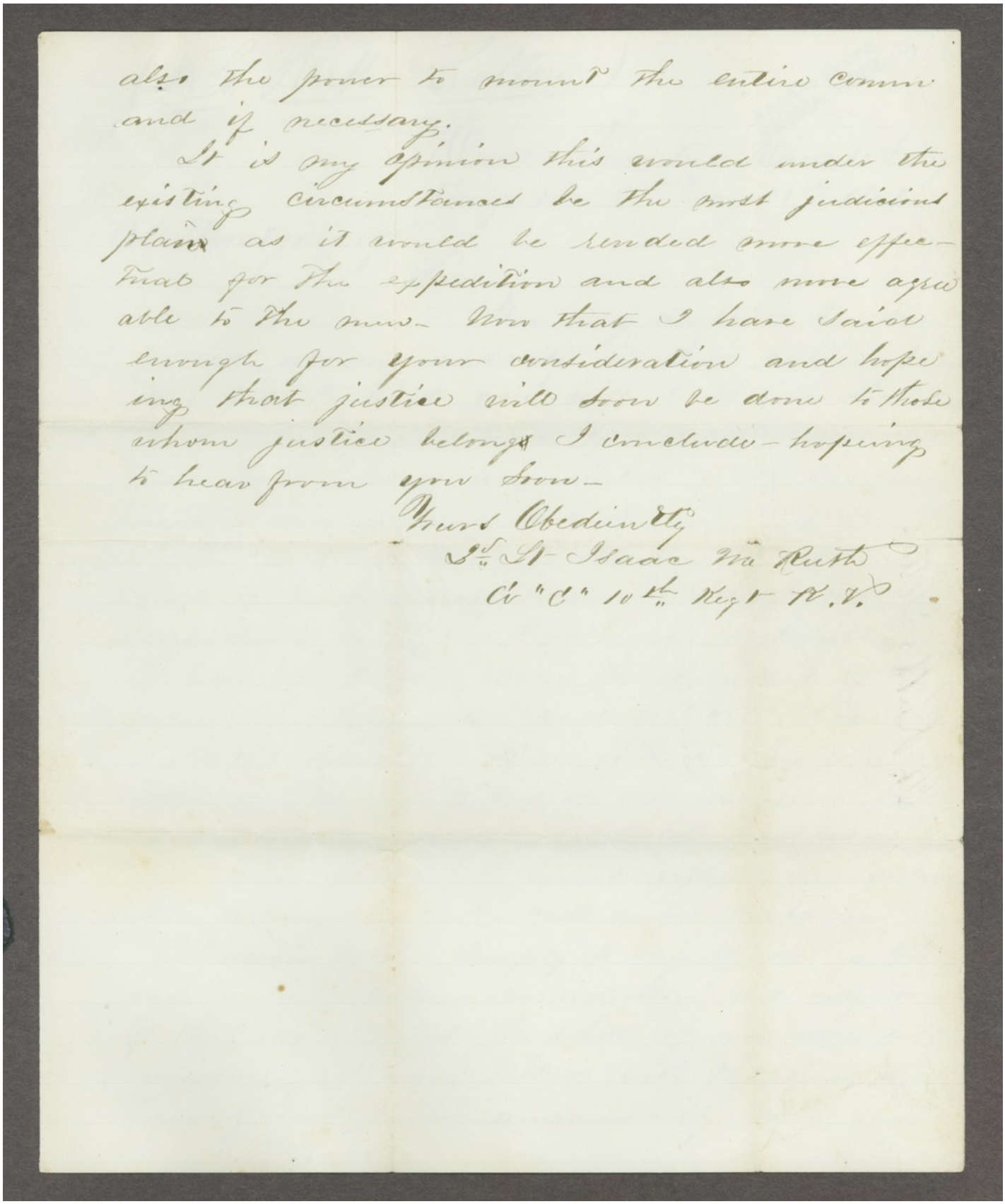
I mean by this simply to say we desire you once more to be our commander not only we of the (now) 10th but the whole of our once noble regiment. I have talked with the men and have found them unanimously agree that-

that they had not acted rashly in not standing by you last winter in your time of trouble – and also that they to a man most sincerely desire you to exuse your utmost exertions in trying to regain your Original command. I have also found in consulting Overdear – Hastall – Foreman and the rest of the officers that they also agree that it now is within your power to regain your command which was so unjustly taken from you. To this end I most earnestly desire (in behalf of the men who are at any moment willing to give you an expression) that you would at your earliest moment repair to Washington and claim your rights.

You need not (if you desire it) hesitate to ask for pecuniary aid you will find us not only ready but willing. Nor will you find this proposition to you the effect of a rash conclusion but that it has been weighed and debated to the fullest extent

Mr. Overdear will see you I think in a few days in which he will lay open to you more fully the feelings of the men and officers of your regiment

I think by judicious movement you could not only get the regiment back as it was but

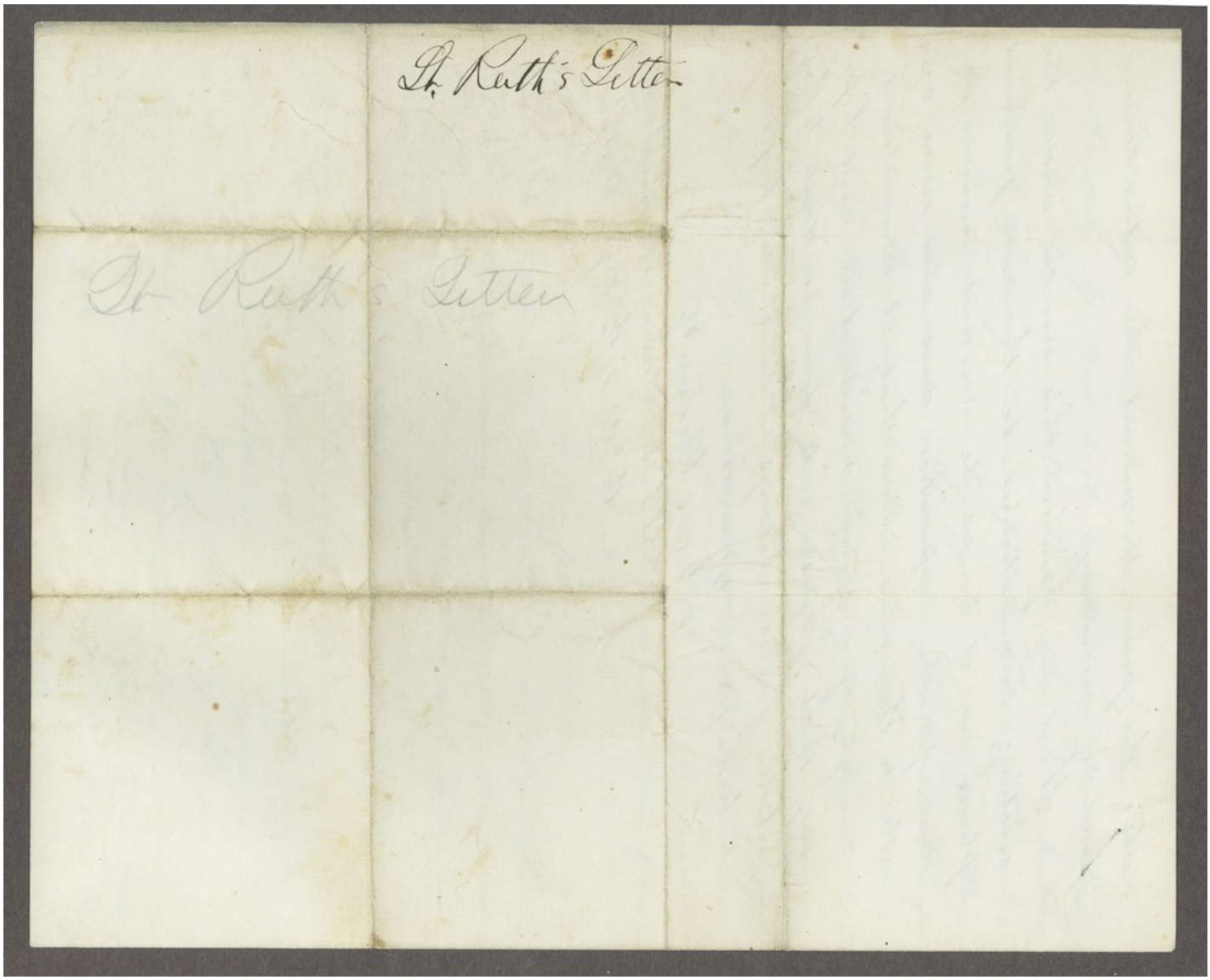


also the power to mount the entire comm and if necessary.

It is my opinion this would under the existing circumstances be the most judicious plan as it would be rendered more effectual for the expedition and also more agreable to the men. Now that I have said enough for your consideration and hoping that justice will soon be done to those whom justice belongs I conclude - hopeing to hear from you Soon -

Yours Obediently
Sr. M. Isaac Mc Ruth
Co "C" 10th Regt N.Y.

James Montgomery correspondence



KANSAS STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY.
3411

(Copy)

HEADQUARTERS, DEPARTMENT OF THE SOUTH.

Hilton Head, Port Royal, S. C., Feby 7th 1863.

Colonel Morgan.
90th Reg't N.Y.S.Vols.
Commanding Key West.

Colonel

You will send to these Head Quarters in charge of Colonel Montgomery, on board the Steamer "Cosmopolitan", every adult Male Negroe between the ages of fifteen and fifty, who is capable of bearing Arms, to be found within your Command.-

By Command of Maj. Genl. Hunter.
(signed) Chas. G. Halpine.
Assist. Adjt. General
10th Army Corps.

Official:
Israel Sealy
1st Lt. 47th N.Y.V.
A.A.A.G.

3411

HEADQUARTERS. DEPARTMENT OF THE SOUTH,

HILTON HEAD, Port Royal, S. C., May 28th 1863.

KANSAS STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

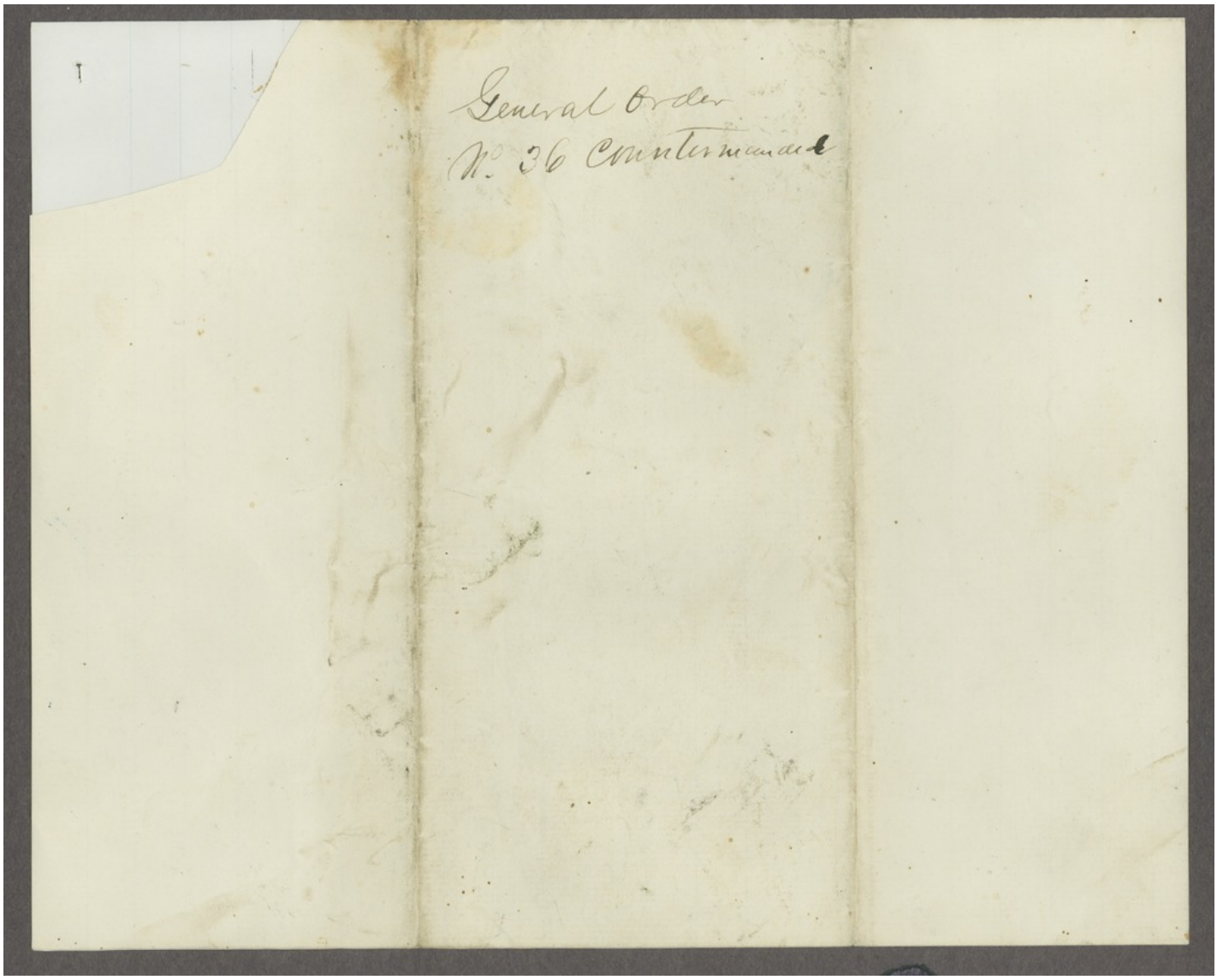
Colonel James Montgommery
Commanding 2nd So. Ca. Vols
Beaufort S. C.

Colonel.

I am instructed by the Major General Commanding to return the within discharges, to be reforwarded to these Head Quarters, with your official statement, that they have been duly commissioned in the 2nd S. C. Vols. - This will be necessary before the order for their discharge can be issued from these Head Quarters.

I am also directed to inform you that Par. III of Genl. Orders No. 36, current series from these Head Quarters has been countermanded.

I have the honor to be, Col.
Very Respectfully
Your obt. servt.
Israel Vealy
1st Lieut 4 U.S.A.V.
A. Asst. Adjt Genl.


General Order
No. 36 Countermanded

KANSAS STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY.
3411

Camp of 3d Regt. W.S.C.V.
Morris Island S.C. August 2d 1863

Sir

I have the honor to report that the Camp of the 2d Regt. S.C. is kept well policied but from its position between high hills seems to suffer from sickness to some extent. I would suggest either the partial or entire removal of the same, By leveling, filling up & extending it to the west better ventilation can be secured and the present dry location retained.

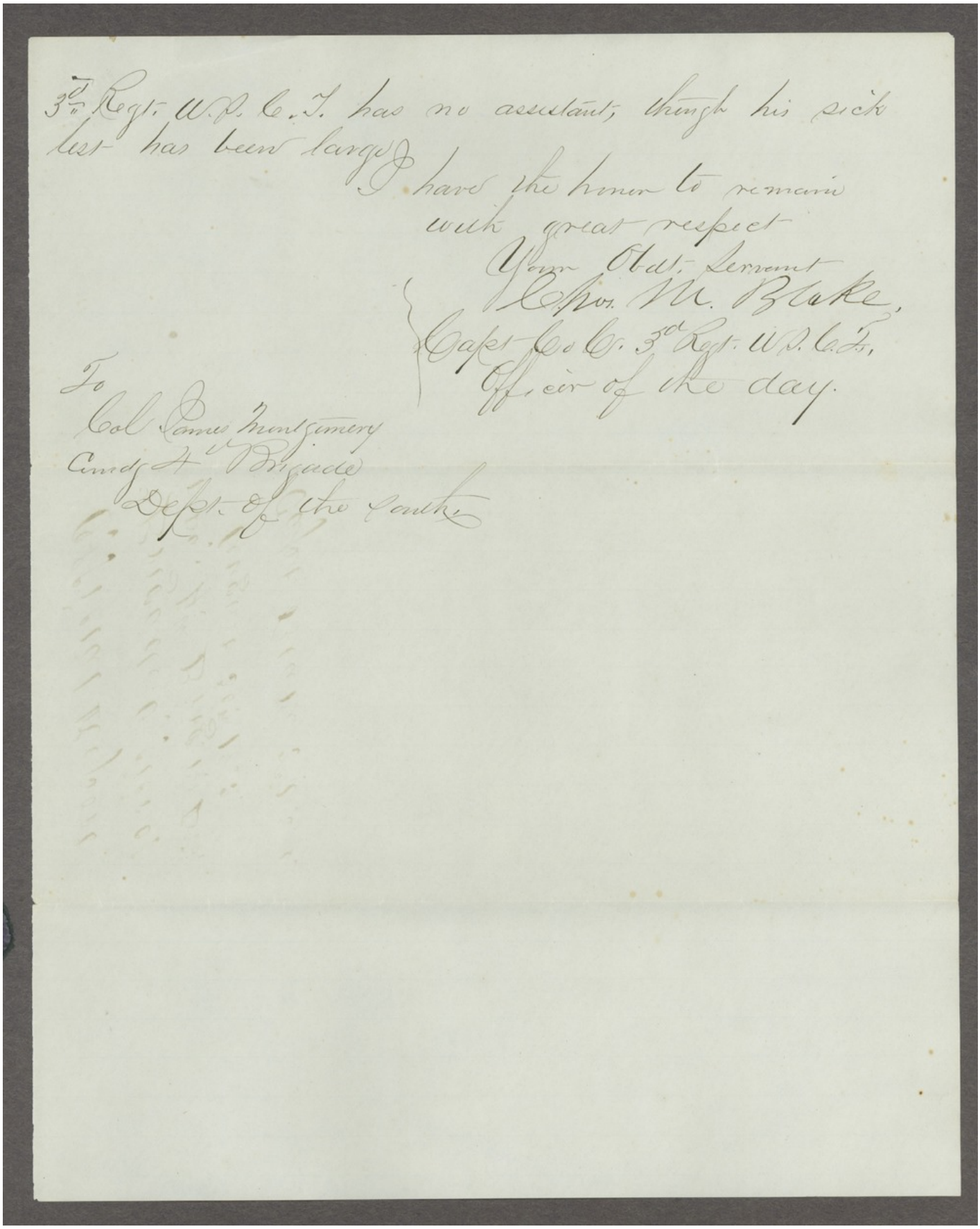
The camp of the 54th Mass Regt is a model of neatness & good order. The police were busy draining ~~filling up~~ basins & ~~filling it~~ ground in the rear

The third Regt W.S.C.V. is about to be removed. It present camp is wet though by ditching & careful policing it has been improved

The use of cards & profanity to some extent was observed in all the camps

Drill & Inspection going on in the 2d Regt S.C. as is usual & understand in P.M.

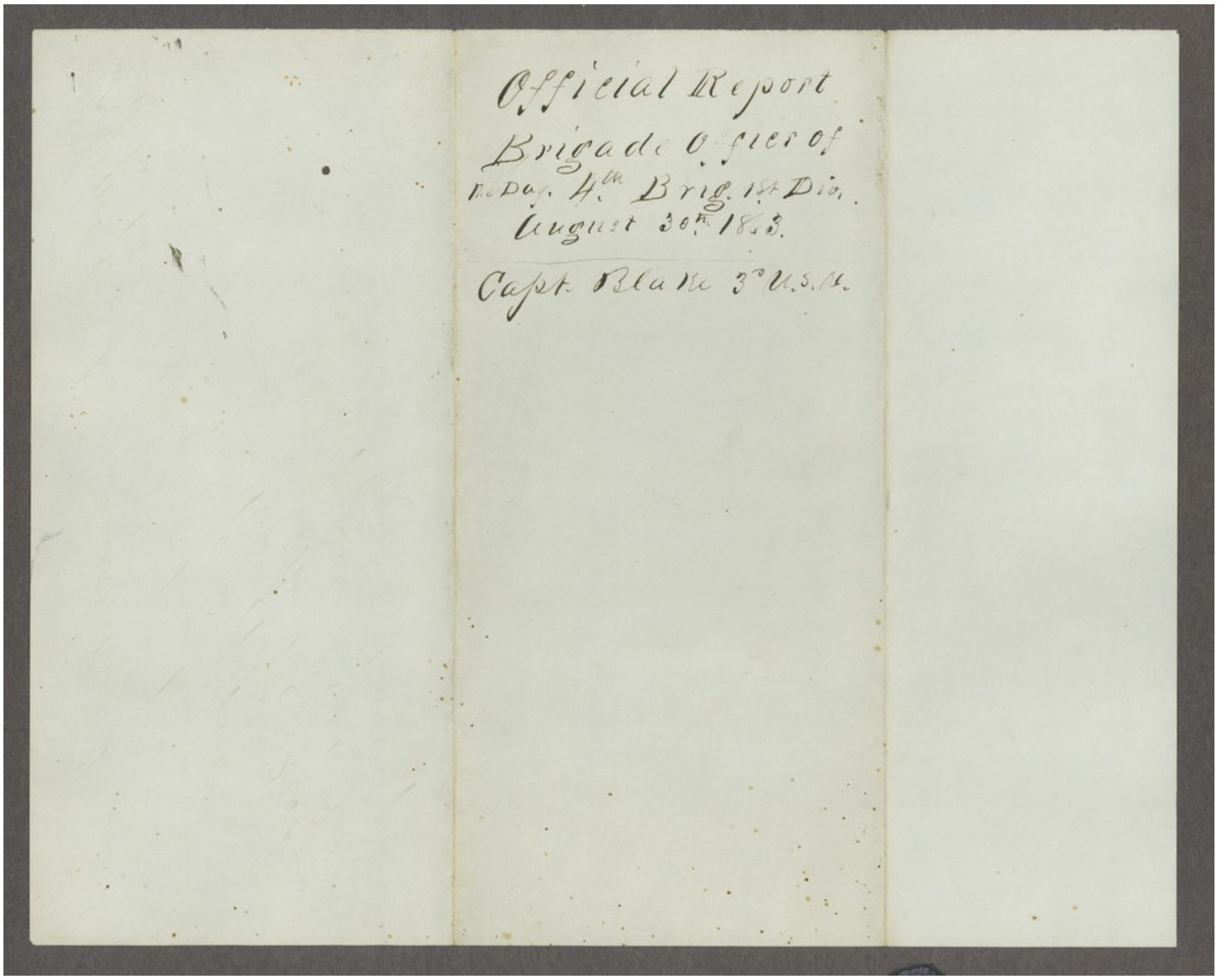
The Hospitals are well kept, especially those in Mass & S.C. Regts. The surgeon of



3d Regt. W.P. C.T. has no assistant, though his sick list has been large.

I have the honor to remain
with great respect
Your Obdt. Servant
Lieut. W. Blake,
Capt Co C. 3d Regt. W.P. C.T.
Officer of the day.

To
Col James Montgomery
Comdg 4th Brigade
Dept. of the South



Official Report
Brigade Officer of
the Day. 4th Brig. 1st Div.
August 30th 1863.

Capt. Blair 3d U.S.A.

3411

Morris Island S. C.
September 1 - 1863

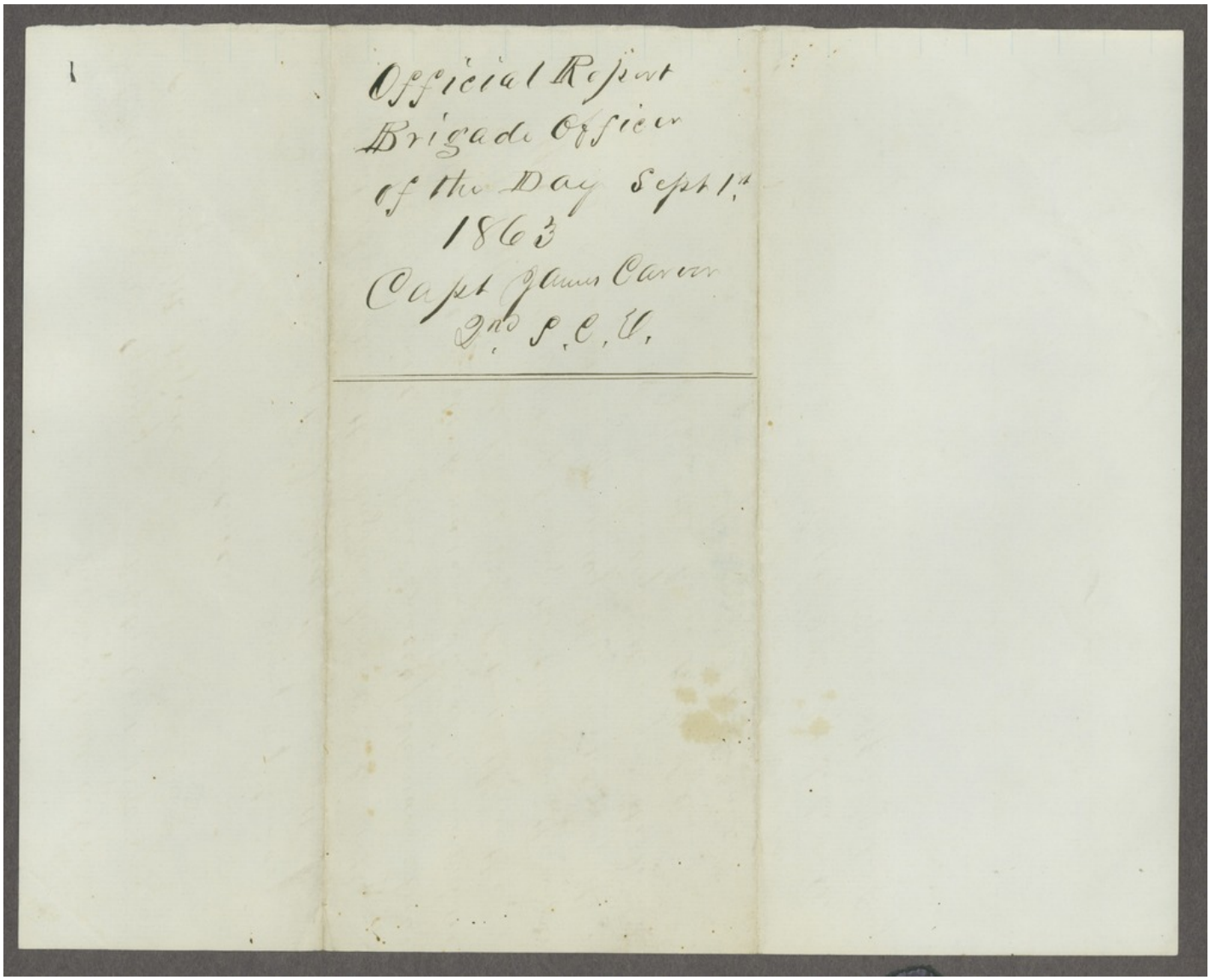
Col. James Montgomery
Commanding 4th Brigade

KANSAS STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Colonel -

During my tour as Brigade officer of the I visited the camps of the different Regiments of the Brigade three - I found them in excellent condition - Some small particulars which improvement might be made - If barrels were provided at the different cook houses in which to throw the offal - and the habit of burying the filth near the surface should be corrected - Generally the cleanliness of the camps will compare favorably with any on the Island

I have the honor to be Col -
Your obedient Servant
James M. Carnes
Capt - 2nd Regt S. C. vols,
Brigade officer of the Day -



Official Report
Brigade Officer
of the Day Sept 1st
1863
Capt James Carver
2nd S.C.V.

3411

Official Report General Officer of the Day

Morris Island S. C. Sep 3d 4th 1863.

KANSAS STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Capt. A. Ivey,
Asst Adjt Genl

Captain,

I have the honor to report for the information of the General Comdg. that I visited all the different Batteries and detachments in the trenches between the hours of Midnight and 2 O'Clock Morning. found everything in good condition, and every department in good working order.

Nothing unusual occurred during my tour of duty. The business of relieving the Guard of the trenches was admirably performed - this evening especially.

I have the honor to be
Captain.
Your most obt Servt.
James Montgomery
Lt. Col. & Genl. Officer of the Day

KANSAS STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

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Morris Island S.C.
Sept. 9th 1863

1st Lieut R. H. L. Jewett
Actg. Asst. Adjt Genl, 4th Brigade.

Lieutenant

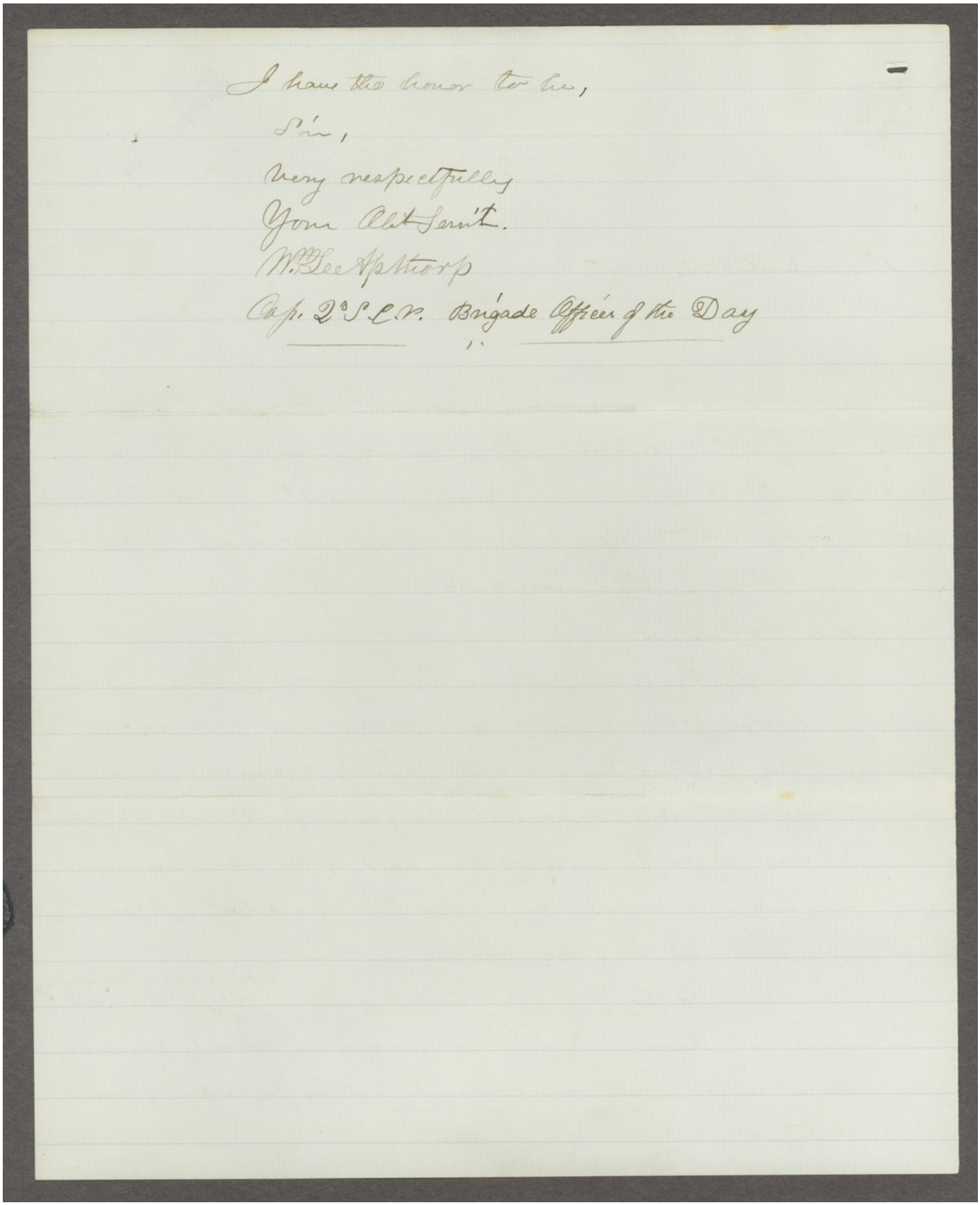
I have the honor to submit the following report of my tour of duty of twenty-four hours, ending at 9 o'clock this morning.

I found the Camps generally in good order, with the exception of the sinks and their vicinity, belonging to the 54th Mass.

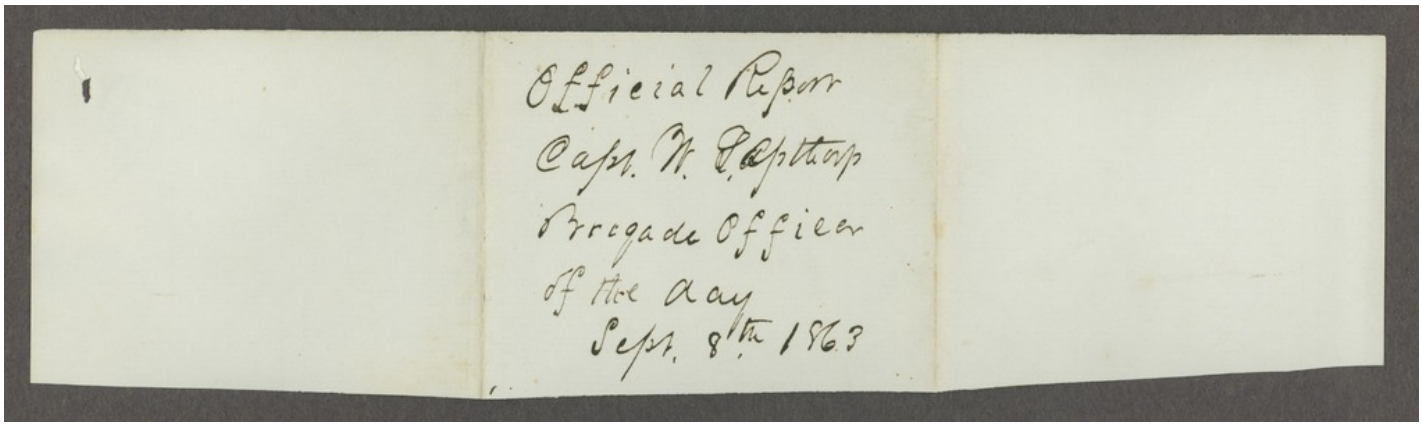
Though the cooking arrangements of all the regiments were good, those of the 3d U.S.C.T. were the best and cleanest.

In visiting the guards at night, I was only required to give the countersign at the guard the 2d Regt S.C.V. I was obliged to wake up the guard of the 54th Mass myself. They had no sentinel in front of the guard tent, I could have disarmed the entire guard.

The guard of the 3d U.S.C.T. had been taken off by whose order except a sentinel at the Commissary
I do not know. There is evidently necessity for more instruction of the men, and greater stringency in respect of guard duty.



I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Very respectfully
Your Obt Servt.
W. Lee Apthorp
Capt. 2d S.C.V. Brigade Officer of the Day


Official Report
Capt. W. S. Hotchkiss
Brigade Officer
of the day
Sept. 8th 1863

KANSAS STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

3411

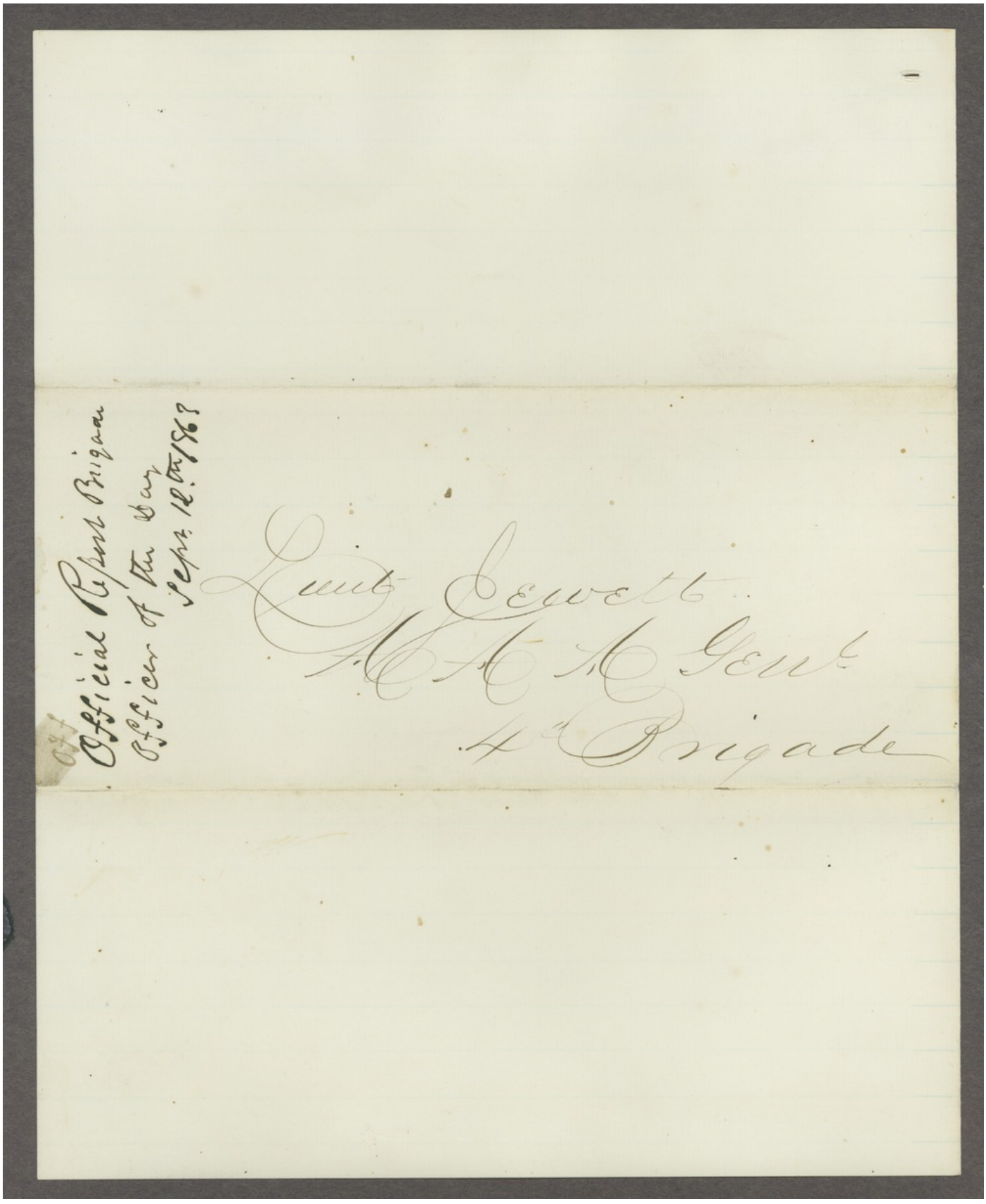
Head Qrs 3rd Reg. USCT
Morris Island S.C.
September 12th 1863

Lt. Cowell
A.A.G. Gen.l 4th Brig
Sir

I have the honor to submit, my report, as Field Officer of the Day, ending 9 A.M. this morning

I visited the grounds, and quarters of the several Regiments of the Brigade, during the day, and nights, and found the Camps in good order, and condition, as were also the Guards

Very Resp.y
Your Obd.t Serv.t
George D Hart
Cap.t Co "A" 3 Reg. USCT.
& Field Officer of the Day


Official Report of Brigade
Officers of the day
Sept. 12th 1862

Lieut Lovett
A.A.A. Genl
4th Brigade

3411
KANSAS STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Head Quarters U. S. Forces.
Morris Island S. C. Sept. 18th 1863.

General Orders
No 33

The Medical Director of this Post having advised the Brig. Genl. Comdg. that the extra issue of whiskey directed by Par. IV. General Orders No 10 from these Head Quarters dated July 20th 1863, is no longer necessary for the health of the troops, it will be discontinued from this date.
Rations of whiskey will still be issued to fatigue parties working during the night, and to such other parties as may suffer unusual fatigue or exposure.

By order of
Brig. Genl. A. H. Terry.
Adrian Terry
Capt. & A. A. Genl.

Lt Col W W Marple 2d S. C.
Col Brig C Feighman 3 U.S.C.T.
Capt Emilio — 54th Mass Vol