

**William Hogan**  
**Civil War Letters, 1862-1865**  
**MSA 268**

**Transcription by RMM, Oct/Nov 2002**

Convalescent camp

Nov 12<sup>th</sup>, 1862,

Dr Son,

I have been sick for some time past from a wound I received in the shoulder at the battle at Molvern Hill but I am quite now. I am glad that you did not come soldiering for the life of a soldier is a very hard life. If I don't get my discharge I shall try hard for a furlough to come home this winter but I dont know I shall succeed. But I am going to try to get my discharge.

Give my best respects to mother and and sisters and Brothers.

Give my best respects to Thos. McKeon and let me know when he is

Yours &c.

Direct to Wm. Hogan Convalescent camp near Alexandria Va.

Thos. Hogan.

Wm. Hogan

*[note: written on outside of letter: "Brandon"]*

Army of Potomack

Sept. 5<sup>th</sup>, 1863My Dear Son [*in pencil*, Thomas]

I have written to you two letters one after the Battle of Chancellorsville and another after the Battle of Gettysburg and have not recd any answer to either one so I should like you to write at once now and let me know how you are getting along I ascribe my not hearing from you to our being moved about so much but if you direct your letters to the Regiment it must reach me wherever we are I am happy to tell you I am quite well and considering all things very comfortable. I am still employed at Genrl. Brookes headquarters and hope to remain in it as long as I am in the service

We get occasional glimpses of the rebels from our picket lines but except some trifling skirmishes have had no brush with them for some time. In our conversations with them on our picket lines they are individually very friendly and shake hands with us change newspapers &c and generally profess themselves tired of the war

On our march from Gettysburg through Mayland in pursuit of the Rebels I was very fortunate in being with the General staff as although the army in general underwent much hardship and short commons I had quite a pleasant time and lived high amongst the farmers. We are at present in a very healthy location on a range of hills some 10 miles north of the Rappahannock and are well supplied with everything

Our army is now quite scattered over a very extended line and it is not probable that it shall be got together and commence active hostilities for some time yet we are receiving conscripts every day, and I had the painful sight of witnessing the execution of five of them for desertion They were shot quite close to our quarters This is pretty much

all the camp news I can think of and I suppose it will not interest you much but for us who see nothing of civilised life now it is all we have to talk about

In your answer let me know whether you have heard from your uncle Tom and let me know how he is and all about him Also my daughter Ann for I have not heard from her since your last letter If you should write to her say to her I am anxious to get a letter from her

Remember me to my brothers sisters and mother.

and believe me

your affectionate Father

William Hogan

Direct your letter

Co. H 2<sup>nd</sup> Delaware Vols Army of the Potomac

Washington D.C

P.S. I am proud to tell you of the valour of our Vermont boys a whole brigade of whom whose time expired fought like tigers at Gettysburg and the whole army rings with their praise.

W.H.

Before Richmond May 30<sup>th</sup>

Dear Son

I received the letters which you and my Daughter sent me and I was glad to hear that you are well we expect to be in a battle very soon when it is over if I am spared I will write a long letter if I should fall in battle I want you to see after my bounty and other claims by writing to Captain James Plunket Company H Second Delaware Regiment you will doubtless get all the information you require Give my love to my Daughter also to my Mother and Brothers and sister

P.S. the Battle is going on now so I must close for the present

I remain your loving Father

William Hogan

Camp near Falmouth Va.

June 3<sup>rd</sup> 1863

Dear Son

I take the present opportunity of penning you a few lines. I am well as could be expected. I seen your Uncle Tom before the late battle, but I have not seen him since. If you have heard from him since the battle let me know for I am anxious to hear from him.

I have not heard from home in some time. I have wrote them twice since I have received a letter from them.

I am at present detailed at Col. Brooks Head Quarters and I have a good deal easier than I have heretofore. Col. Brooks commands the brigade.

The Army are all quiet now laying in Camp. It is impossible to tell where, or when we will move. I dont think this Army will do much here this summer. In takeing out the 2 years and 9 months mor it makes quite a hole in the old Army of the Potomac.

Our pickets and the Rebel pickets talk across to one another nearly all the time they are quite friendly towards our pickets.

Write to me soon and let me know all the particulars Remember me to my Mother Sisters and Brothers.

Respectfully Yours

Willliam Hogan

Hd. Qrs. 4<sup>th</sup> Brig. 1<sup>st</sup> Div. 2<sup>nd</sup> Corps

Washington

DC.

PS) During the 8 days fight I was placed in a position at Fredericksburg and  
Chancellorsville where I could see the most of the battle. There were some  
heartrendering sights, and such that I don't wish to see again

Let me know the address of Thomas McKeon

W. H.

Camp Wilkes Drummondtown Va

March 21/6[2?]

Dear Son

with pleasure I Write to you informing you that I have in in the service of our beloved country in the Second Delaware Volunteers Company H Capt. James Plunket When the Regt Capt Cambridge in persuitt of the Rebels the first day we Marched Eighteen Miles the second twenty seven they left their breastworks and disbanded for three months we have been on detach service in waching the Rebels but now for Baltimore where we will stay for a short time when we will go farther give my love to Anna your sister also to your grandmother and your uncles

When I joined the army I was in the hot bed of secsionist but now I am in good health and hoping to find you all the same be sure and let me know how all the family is

No more at present but remain your affectionat father

Wm. Hogan

Direct your letter Wm. Hogan Baltimore Co H 2<sup>nd</sup> Del Regt care of Col H W Wharton

Head qrs 4<sup>th</sup> BrigadeNov 16<sup>th</sup> [1863]

Dear Son

I received your letter some time ago, and am very glad to hear that you are well. I would have written sooner but we have been on the move nearly all the time and therefore did not get time before this evening. We are expecting to move again every day, but have not got the order to go yet. We have had several succesful battles on the Rappahannock and expect to have more before long. Yesterday there was canonading not far off and we were invited to attend but we were not needed and I am very thankful that we did not have to go, for I am getting almost too old to march as the army has to march. I have been with the wagon train on all the last marches and did not get into the shelling scrape that the Regt was in while making Coffee at Auburn Va. We are just about two miles from the Rappahannock River on the South side near Kelly's Ford. There is nothing to be had except what what the Government furnishes. the sutlers are left behind and cannot get to us for fear of old Mossby. there is such a scarcity of tobaco in the army that the soldiers are compelled to give \$3,00 per plug for it. Please write to Ann and tell her to write to me. I have not heard from her since last spring. let me know whather she is home yet or not. give her the proper Address so that her letters will get here safely. There was a great talk of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Delaware Regt. going home to Vote but I think the thing has all blown over. Every thing is getting along as smothely as could be expected under the circumstances. I am in very good health and have been for some time past.

I must wind up this short letter for it is getting late. give my respects to my mother, Brothers and sister



From your father

William Hogan

P.S. Answer promptly if you please. W. H.

*[note: written on outside of letter: "Anna C Hogan"]*

Fair Haven, Ct.

Feb. 5<sup>th</sup>, 1865.

Dear Friend

Yours of the 29<sup>th</sup> of Jan I received in due season and was glad to hear from you that you as well as the rest of the folks were well and enjoying yourselves this winter. I am well and have been so since last you heard from me and so are the rest of the boys here. Nate got back last mnday night about nine oclock and if he had not have been at home at the time he would have had to have gone to the front the day before for his name was called to go along with about five hundred others and it took more than two thirds of the whole in camp. I have been expecting to go ever since but they keep me yet although I think this week will see me on the way to New Orleans La. I hope it will for this place begins to seem old to me and if only for a change I would like to go some whares else. I came across a couple of fellows here a few days ago that I would not have thought of seeing here they are from Goshen one of them a cousen of yours they had been in camp nearly a week before I came across them. I should like to be up there to go to some of those singing schools donations &c with you but it is of no use untill this war is setteled then we shall see to them a little. We have to be pretty steady here more so than I like to be at times and there is no kneed of them [their?] being so mean with us as they are but you give some men an office and they will use it just as far as they can the Capt in command of the camp here is one of this kind. We can get a pass about once a week only and then only for a few hours but we make the best of it when we do get out. Nate saies he wonders if they have found his horse yet he has not heard any thing from there since he left. If I get a chance to come up home I hope I shall have better luck than he had if I

do not I would rather not come at all. It was rather a hard one on him wasent it though I think it was. The boys have some gay old times here once in a while when they get out of camp for in this state they keep all kinds of liquors to sell in evry little shop or thing of the kind. But as for me I never take any thing of the kind so I suppose that I do not know how to enjoy myself they tell me so here evry once in a while. We shall all be happy to see you fellows when you come down this way that is if we are here But I dont hardly think that you will get a thousand this time but you may. I think that I can not get a furlough any way for they have s[w?]ore of in them and will not give any more to any one but if I should happen to come I would be pretty apt to make you a call before I came back. The weather has been very pleasant here for some time we have not had a stormy day for four weeks. I am on guard today and have not time to write any more now so I will close hoping to hear from you soon and that this may find you well. Give my respects to all of the folks and write soon. This is all for this time

Yours truly

D. W. Clarke

2<sup>nd</sup> Vt. Battery

Camp Nere Falmouth feb the 18

Dear thomas i rite to yo hoping to Find yo in as good helth as this leve in at present thank god for it i have been to the regment that yore father was in 3 or 4 times to se if he was thare but tha told me that he was in elexandea and tha expect him every day but i got a leter from benington and tha told me that tha expect him home and i wood like to here from him i wish yo wood rite to me and let me no if he has gon home we ar in campt here in plane site of the reblls tha ar on one side of the river and we on the other we ar about one hunder and fiftey thousand strong the rivr is not more than 95 yards across at fredes fary the pickets can speke to each other we dont no how long we will stay here it rains amost all the time it is snowing now and has been for the last 24 ours but it wnt stay on the ground more than a day or too it will be all mud agin i have seen 24 horses on one go on and could not moofe it it is imposebel for [us] to [---] intill the weather setels and we ar glad of it hooker is in comand and he is a fiter but thare is no man in the world can fite this armye well as mackClanan he is the idel of the armye tha wood folow him to a defete as son as tha aney other man to victory i have no room to rite aney more as paper and stamps is a scarce artical here so i will by sendin my love to all inqirn frinds rite us soon as yo get this direct to washington D C the 2 regment of vol sickel divison moots brigade compeney C for Thomas Hogan

Camp near Shepherds Grove Va.

Hd Qrs. 4<sup>th</sup> Brig. 1<sup>st</sup> Div 2<sup>nd</sup> A.C.

April 7<sup>th</sup> 1864

Dear Son Thomas

I now take the present opportunity to write to you to let you know of my whereabouts at the present time and how we are getting along My health is very good at present and I hope these few lines will find you and your sister Ann enjoying the same The army is lying in its old winter quarters yet but I expect that it will soon be on the move before many days We have had very unpleasant weather here for the last few days it stormed the most of the time so you see it made it very muddy but a few days fair weather will dry it ~~that~~ up Our scouts have crossed the Rappidann River this evening and I expect that we will soon follow them I expect to join my Regt to morrow but you may look for me home about the middle of August if I live through this Spring campaign which I hope and trust I shall

Please Remember me to my Brothers and Sisters and all enquiring friends And you and Anna please except my love From your ever affectionate Father

Wm. Hogan

P.S. Please Direct your letter To. Co. H, 2<sup>nd</sup> Del. Vols. 4<sup>th</sup> Brig. 1<sup>st</sup> Div. 2<sup>nd</sup> A.C.

Battelfield

May 13/64

Dear Son

I write these few lines to let you Know alive and well at Present we have had a ten Days fight and we had one of the greatst Battel of the war yeseterday our cops charged the rebels works yesterday mourning at Day Light and carryed them at the Point of the Baynot with the capture of fourty two Pieces of artilery and ten thousand Prisenors we will Lay sill to day but I expect they will continue the fight to morrow There has been about thirty six hours of rain we are all wet so you must excuse this short note for the Present but will write soon as Posible again

from your father

William Hogen