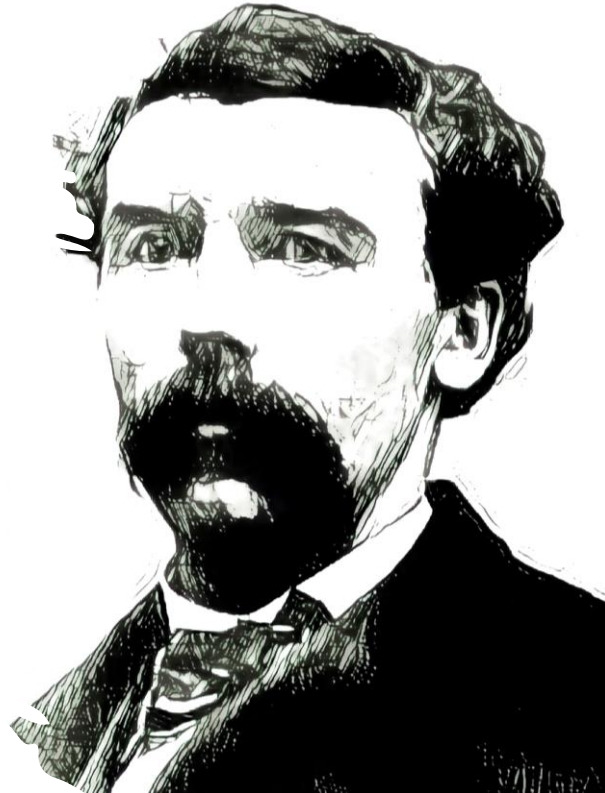


William Graham



Sent via paper

Harpers Ferry Sept 26th / 1862

Sister Libbie

I cease on this opportunity
of answering your kind letter. As no long
lines get it but I have not had a
chance till now and now my time
is so short that I can only give you
few lines we have done some hot
marching since I last wrote you
and I was going to say some hard^{things}
but I will not say so for we did not fight
tho' the position we held was a very dangerous
one yet we had no hand to hand to hand
fight with the Enemy we supported
a Battery lay in front of our guns 4 or 6
hours and we were singularly preserved
by the Almighty or we would have got
cut up badly. As to going up the
particulars of the fight I can not here
I believe they have finely made out that
there over 5000 killed and wounded
the Lord be thanked I came out all

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it without a scratch and I cannot
say that I was much afraid I dodged
none when I first went in but when
the rifle balls began to come thick as hail
I felt quite indifferent about it I thought
if it was the Lords will that I should be preserved
why so be it and if not why this will be done
you would think to hear our boys talk that each
one was a veteran but I honestly think we have
a grate many cowards in our regiments we
have got a grate many off this Billag Loafers
and whiskey soakers grate buggers swearing
what they would do when they get there and
when we did get there them very boys was taken
sick or sculking taking strychny stock they came
sneaking after the fight - Well Libbie we had
some good news last night we heard the
President Proclamation seting all this slaves
of Rebels free if they do not return to their
religions it seems to be just the boys exactly
any thing to whip them they bring every thing
thing bare against us in their power and we must
use desperate means to whip them or else this
war slaver will continue for years O Sister
you must write all for it - Its me good to get
your kind letters I can not always write for
when we are on the march it impossible and I can
not get paper nor postage stamps we are all broke
on money matter we have not got a cent since we
left I am Guy to day he is quite well some
times get a little complaint all the other Troopers
Boys are well Mr Corwin says he writes often
but gets no answer Libbie see Father often and tell
me I am well thank the Lord this is all so good May
Sister I am your on worthy Brother Wm. Graham

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Harpers Ferry

September 26th 1862

Dear Libbie,

I seize on this opportunity of answering your kind letter. It is long since I received it but I have not had a chance till now. And now my time is so short that I can only give you a few lines. We have done some tall marching since I last wrote you and I was going to say some hard fighting but I will not say so for we did not fight. The position we held was a very dangerous one yet we had no hand-to-hand fight with the enemy. We supported a Battery. [We] lay in front of our guns 4 or 6 hours and we were singularly preserved by the Almighty or we would have got cut up badly.

As to giving you the particulars of the fight, I can not here. I believe they have finely made out that there [was] over sixty killed and wounded [in our regiment]. The Lord be thanked, I came on & off it without a scratch and I cannot say that I was much afraid.

I dodged some when I first went in but when the rifle bullets began to come thick as hail, I felt quite indifferent about it. I thought if it was the Lord's will that I should be preserved, why so be it. And if not, why His will be done.

You would think to hear our boys talk that each one was a veteran but I honestly think we have a great many cowards in our regiment. We have got a great many of the village loafers and whiskey soakers—great braggarts—swearing what they would do when they got there [on the battlefield] and when we did get there, them very boys was taken sick or skulking behind straw stacks. They came sneaking [in] after the fight.

Well, Libbie, we had some good news. Last night we heard the President's Proclamation setting all the slaves of Rebels free if they do not return to the [Union]. It seems to suit the boys exactly. Anything to whip them. They bring everything [to] bear against us in their power and we must use desperate means to whip them or else this manslaughter will continue for years.

Oh Sister, you must write often for it does me good to get your kind letters. I cannot always write for when we are on the march it's impossible and I cannot get paper nor postage stamps. We are all broke on money matters. We have not got a cent since we left.

I saw Guy today. He is quite unwell—some kind of a bowel complaint. Says he writes often and gets no answer. Libbie, see Father often and tell him I am well, thank the Lord. This is all so goodbye, Sister.

I am your unworthy brother, — Wm. Graham

Bio of William Graham

Born 1833 William emigrated from County Down, Ireland, with his parents in 1850. James Graham a 64-year-old farmer, and Jane Shaw, age 48. William enlisted at Elmira on 18 July 1862 as a private with the Co. B, 107th New York Infantry. He was promoted to a corporal on 1 November 1862 and mustered out of the regiment at Washington D. C. on 5 June 1865 as a 1st Sergeant [according to his obituary].

At the time of his enlistment, William resided in Wayne, Steuben county, New York. After the war, the Rathbone-West Union (Steuben county) town clerk recorded William's military experience in the 107th New York as follows: "Was in the Battle of Antietam. Joined Sherman at Chattanooga and participated in nearly all the engagements his regiment had until Johnston's surrender in North Carolina. Discharged June 5th 1865. P. O. Address, Weston, N. Y." William passed away in 1877