

A series of correspondence from George Jewett of the 13th Michigan Battery. He was at Fort Stevens and recounts the wounding of Surgeon Crawford and personal encounters with President and Mrs. Lincoln. He also recounts hearing about the death of Lincoln by an eyewitness who served under him and his involvement in the search for the assassins. All shown at 80%.

GEORGE B. JEWETT,
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100 ELM ST.,
NORTHAMPTON, MASS.

Northampton, Mass. Nov. 30, 1911.

Mr. Lewis Cass White,
6404 Georgia Ave.
Washington, D.C.

Dear Comrade;-

I certainly owe you an apology for not having acknowledged the receipt of your interesting letter of the 13th, inst. also the papers and other enclosures. My excuse is, that I was waiting until I could find time to reply in a leisurely way. Your postal of the 28th, reminds me that I wait no longer, and will go ahead while the Turkey is being roasted.

I enlisted in the Chicago Board of Trade Battery, July, 1862. This was quite a famous Battery in the western army, Army of the Cumberland. In the fall of 1863, I was ordered to Michigan, to assist in recruiting and organizing the 13th, Mich. Battery. We were ordered to Washington about the 1st, of Feb. '64, and went into camp out a little ways east of the Capitol, in what was then known, as Camp Barry, waiting for our equipment.

When Grant took command in the east, and ordered all the old troops in the defenses of Washington to the front, my battery, together with some 25 other light batteries, several of them "Regulars", were dismounted, and took their places, much to our disgust. We were stationed at different times, at forts Sumner, Reno, Slocum, Stevens, and for some time at Fort Foot, down the river below Washington.

I think I was the first officer, in the defenses to know of President Lincoln's assassination. One of my sergeants was in the theater at the time, and nearly killed a horse to bring me the news as soon as it was possible to do so. A part of my company were in the chase after Booth. We had been mounted, and equipped as cavalry, and doing vidette duty in front of the line of defenses. Immediately after this, I was detailed as A.A.A.G. on the staff of Brig. Gen. M.D. Harden, commanding the defenses on the north of the Potomac, and served in that capacity until ordered home to be mustered out, July 1st, 1865.

Have never been in Washington but once ^{since} the war was over. In the winter '86, was returning from a business trip in the south, I landed in the city one rainy, foggy Sunday morning, thinking I would look the old town over. Took a carriage and started, but soon gave it up. I met an old chum, who used to belong to the Chicago B.T. Battery, John B. Sleman. He has lived in Washington since '64. I see a son of his, John B. Sleman, Jr. a prominent young man I judge, died recently. You may know of him.

Is Dr. Crawford living? if he is, I would like to hear from him. Of seven officers, of the 13th Mich Battery, I am the only one living, and I think there is not a noncommissioned officer living.

I want to thank you for the papers sent, I certainly did enjoy reading them, and they were read to my G.A.R. post. The 37th. Mass. Infantry was at the Fort Stevens engagement, was raised in this vicinity, and quite a number of its members belong to my post. They were all much interested in the account. *They belonged to the 6th Corps.*

Lewis Cass White. # 2

If you will advise me what the fee is for joining your Association, will be glad to join it, if it is not beyond my reach. If you wish, will write up my recollections of the affair.

By the way, how did you come by that name? Lewis Cass, sounds very much like Michigan.

One incident I remember, in the evening of the 12th, the fighting continued until after dark. A Col. of a Penn. Reg't, I don't remember which one, it may have been yours, came to the fort and wanted to know if there was ~~any~~ ammunition there, it had nearly all been given out, there had been some ordered from the arsenal, and was on the way somewhere, but it was not there. He begged, and pleaded, said his men were all out, and must have some. I managed to find a little in one of the bomb proofs. I think he was brought in later, wounded, but won't be sure.

It is about time to investigate that Turkey I think, so will close. Thanksgiving used to be a New England affair, but has become a National one now, and is observed pretty generally all over the country.

Trusting that you are enjoying it, I am,
sincerely yours,

Mrs. S. Jewett

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