

## **Waste Family Letters, 1858-1888 (2 Folders)**

Processed by Jackie Couture, 3 Sep 2003

### **Restrictions**

None.

### **Biographical Sketch**

William Waste (ca.1835 - ?) married Sarah Jane Day (ca. 1841 - ?) 10 Jan 1864 in Geauga Co., Ohio while William was serving in the Civil War. William was born in New York to Luke and Hannah Waste. Sarah was born in Massachusetts and her parents have not been determined, but she had a brother named Alonzo Day.

William enlisted in Company I of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Regiment of Ohio Volunteer Infantry at the age of 26. He was mustered in at Camp Jackson, Ohio 22 May 1861, was appointed Corporal 8 Aug 1863 and mustered out with his company 26 Jul 1865 at Cumberland, Maryland. As his appointment was for 3 years he re-enlisted as a veteran to finish the war.

After the war William and Sarah moved to Wisconsin where William's father, Luke Waste had purchased property. There they started their family and had the following children:

1. Elmer J. born ca.1866
2. Bertha J. born ca.1868
3. Henry A. born ca.1870
4. Willie P. born ca.1872
5. Jessie V. born ca.1874
6. Charles born ca.1876

[All birth places and dates came from the 1880 census abstract at [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org).]

### **Scope and Content Note**

This collection of letters is almost entirely between William and Sarah Jane Waste before and during the Civil War. There are, however several letters from various other family members including two written to Sarah and William after the war from William's father, Luke Waste and a letter written in 1888 to Miss Bertha Waste.

The earliest letters discuss religion, society in general, events, their relationship, and health. After William enlists in the army there is much information about life in the army, the movements of the regiment and information about various battles he was involved in. William describes camp, conditions and the places he is staying, as well as rumors about battles. Sarah's brothers tell her great details about events, such as the execution of two soldiers for deserting. The 23<sup>rd</sup> O.V.I. was involved in the following battles and skirmishes that William speaks of: Lynchburg, Virginia; Fisher's Hill, Virginia and Cedar Creek, Virginia.

### **Donor Information**

Purchased (2003-051).

**Folder List** (46 items)

**f.01**

- 17 Oct 1858 ALS William Waste to Sarah J. Day. Johnston, Ohio. Telling her where he is living and what he is doing. This letter was written before he ever thought of going to war.
- 7 Nov 1858 ALS William Waste to Sarah J. Day. Johnston, Ohio. Discussing religious beliefs.
- 13 Mar 1859 ALS William Waste to Sarah J. Day. Mayfield, Ohio. Telling her how much he takes pleasure in her society, meaning her friendship and company.
- 15 Apr 1859 ALS William Waste to Sarah J. Day. Mayfield, Ohio. Telling her of his health and that he plans to pay her a visit in the near future.
- 12 Jun 1860 ALS William Waste to Sarah J. Day. Camp Jackson, Ohio. Concerning life at Camp Jackson and the city of Columbus. Also about how much he misses home and the love of Sarah Jane.
- 25 Nov 1860 ALS William Waste to Sarah J. Day. Kokomo, Indiana. Concerning the movement of his regiment from Columbus Ohio to Kokomo, Indiana. Also talks about the love he has for Jane and how he can't wait to be back by her side.
- 19 Dec 1860 ALS William Waste to Sarah J. Day. Kokomo, Indiana. Concerning how life is treating him in Kokomo over the winter months and his religion and how people live in Kokomo.
- 28 Feb 1862 ALS William Waste to Sarah J. Day. Camp Reynolds. Referring to life in camp, organizing a Lycyum and how he misses life at home.
- 21 Apr 1862 ALS William Waste to Sarah J. Day. Charleston, Virginia. He speaks of how nice it is to be in camp while the rebels aren't attacking them. About how long he has been on the battle field and how much longer he has to stay.
- 15 Jun 1862 ALS William Waste to Sarah J. Day. Camp on Flattop. He writes about the Union Army retreating when attacked by a larger rebel force. About the rations of food before they left Parisburg.
- 6 Jul 1862 ALS William Waste to Sarah J. Day. Charleston, Virginia. Talks about his love for Jane and how much he misses home. About receiving news from the Army of Potomac with Meade defeating Lee..
- 15 Jul 1862 ALS William Waste to Sarah J. Day. Camp Green Meadows. William talks about how he wishes the war over so he can be with Jane and start a future together.

- 2 Sep 1862 ALS William Waste to Sarah J. Day. Camp on Munson Hill. William describes the camp moving from West Virginia to Washington D.C., and the good reception the soldiers got there. He regrets he is unable to see "Old Abe." He writes of McClelland at Bull Run and how if he wins, the war may be over.
- [19 Sep 1862] ALS Alonzo Day to Sarah J. Waste. Camp Tod, Columbus, Ohio. Talking about their barracks and not having much to do. They have to drill about two hours twice a day, and the food is not very good. He wishes he was the one to cook.
- 2 Dec 1862 ALS William Waste to Sarah J. Day. Camp Maskell. William explains how the Union Army is building their winter quarters and the battle of South Mountain. He writes about the possibility of a furlough so he can go to see Jane.
- 6 Mar 1863 ALS Alonzo Day to Sarah J. Day. Tar Farm. About the bad weather in winter camp. About working for 52 dollars a month and getting boarded for 4 dollars a week. This stationary has a woodcut of the Battle of Fair Oaks, Jun 1, 1862.
- 18 Aug 1863 ALS William Waste to Sarah J. Day. Camp White, West Virginia. William explains his trip from home back to camp. He also tells Jane of a boy who drowned while bathing in the river and was buried with military honors.
- 4 Nov [1863] ALS William Waste to Sarah J. Day. Point Pleasant, West Virginia. Stating that they will remain in Point Pleasant all winter. He was offered a commission and the winter at home if he would re-enlist, but decided against it and will be home in six months.
- 23 Jan 1864 ALS William Waste to Sarah J. Waste. Camp Hastings near Cumberland, Maryland. Will writes to his now wife Jane that he is sick from the cold weather. Telling her of having to go to Grafton about 46 miles from where he was camped to give chase to the rebels.
- 22 Feb 1864 ALS William Waste to Sarah J. Waste. Gallipolis. Letting he know where he is and how long it took to get there, and the time it is taking to get back to his regiment. About how time has passed since they were married.
- 1 Mar 1864 ALS William Waste to Sarah J. Waste. Camp White. His regiment gave him Hail Columbia about getting married. Out of 4 guys on picket duty 3 had gotten married. Rumor of having to go to Tennessee and the wintry weather.
- 4 Mar 1864 ALS William Waste to Sarah J. Waste. Camp White. Getting new recruits for the regiment. Most all young boys. Everything is quiet there for now. Tells Jane he doesn't want her working in the summer.

- 22 Mar 1864 ALS William Waste to Sarah J. Waste. Camp White. Regiment having drills three times a day; in the morning Squad drill, at ten Company drill and at five p.m. battalion drill. Taking a long time to get their bounty pay.
- 29 Mar 1864 ALS William Waste to Sarah J. Waste. Camp White. Giving his approval for Jane to work even though he doesn't want her to. It is rainy all the time and the roads are so muddy you cannot find the bottom of them.
- 7 Apr 1864 ALS William Waste to Sarah J. Waste. Camp White, West Virginia. Tells Jane about two of the boys from his regiment robbing a negro of 75 cents and having to parade up and down the grounds in front of everyone with a barrel strapped to their back with a sign telling what they had done. Getting orders to get ready to Mar anytime. Sent Jane a 25 cent script which he received from a rebel prisoner.
- 10 Apr 1864 ALS Henry Gunn to Cousin Henry and Cousin Jane. St. Helena Island, S.C. About going on Guard every other day, getting a pass and going to a Plantation and getting milk to go with their bread. They are to report to Washington and according to the late General Order will have to join them. Letter to Cousin Jane mentions her marriage to a soldier and hopes he is a good fellow.
- 24 Apr 1864 ALS Henry Gunn to Cousin Alonzo Day. Gloucester Point, Virginia. Talks about being on the move constantly. About leaving Hilton Head on propeller boat called Victor. Set up camp across the river from Yorktown, waiting for Maring orders. He gives an explicit account of the punishment of two soldiers who had deserted three times. Worrying about the war and if he will survive.

## **f.02**

- 24 May 1864 ALS John Post to Jane Waste. Tarr Farm. [Jennie Day married John Post 5 Jul 1859 in Geauga Co., Ohio, so apparently John is a brother-in-law of Jane Waste.] He has heard of her getting married and wishes her well. He asks about William and tells of Grant and 60 thousand of his men being taken prisoners. Also asking after his parents.
- 9 Jun 1864 ALS William Waste to Sarah J. Waste. Stanton, Virginia. A friend of his is going home and will deliver this letter. He is now in Shenandoah Valley. They were expecting to fight but by the time they got there General Hunter had already taken the place and about 2,000 prisoners.
- 2 Jul 1864 ALS William Waste to Sarah J. Waste. Camp near Charleston. He talks about the retreat at Lynchburg and running out of rations. Some soldiers fell during Mar from starvation. This past two months has been the hardest of the war.

- 4 Oct 1864 ALS William Waste to Sarah J. Waste. Camp near Cedar Creek, Virginia. Talks about his letter being slow because he was waiting to be paid, so he could send her some money. Also about the battle with the Johnnies where they were attacked before daylight. After dropping back two or three miles they “made a stand and drove them back with great loss.” He also talked about the presidential election of Old Abe.
- 23 Oct 1864 ALS Henry Gunn to Sarah J. Waste. Camp near Soral Hill Church, Virginia. They are encamped about 8 miles from Richmond. He talks of the attack against the rebs and losing 66 men out of their regiment and Company. They did not have good General Ship.
- 23 Nov 1864 ALS William Waste to Sarah J. Waste. Camp Russell, Virginia. The winter weather is upon them and they are unprepared. They have only their dog tents to stay in. Being on pickett at night not having an overcoat and not allowed to build fires. They will be leaving there soon for winter quarters but he doesn’t know where.
- 2 Jan 1865 ALS Alonzo Day to Sarah J. Waste. Knoxville, Tennessee. Telling Jane that he is in the hospital in Tennessee. A rumor that his regiment might be coming to Kentucky on the Nashville & Louisville Railway to guard the road. His regiment has been on a raid.
- 15 Feb 1865 ALS William Waste to Sarah J. Waste. Camp Hastings. There will be no prospect of peace until the rebels are subdued. Talk of Hanowha Valley and going back there. The Methodists having meeting in Cumberland ans most of the soldiers being converted. Hoping his trust in God will see him thru.
- 26 Feb 1865 ALS William Waste to Sarah J. Waste. Camp Hastings, Maryland. Telling of the fall of Wilmington, NC. About the rebel strongholds falling into their hands. A force of about 200 Rebels surprised the pickett and captured them, then went on to capture Major General Crook from his hotel room. They then went to Headquarters of General Kelly and took him prisoner also and got away with all.
- 2 Mar 1865 ALS Alonzo Day to Sarah J. Waste. Knoxville, Tennessee. He seems to think another summer will close up the war, he doesn’t think the rebels can hold out much longer, but he really can’t tell.
- 3 Mar 1865 ALS William Waste to Sarah J. Waste. Camp Carroll, near Cumberland, Maryland. They are in process of moving camp, maybe to the Shanandoah Valley but not sure. Sherman had whipped the rebels and captured three Brigades of infantry, four batteries or artillery and a wagon train.
- 14 Mar 1865 ALS William Waste to Sarah J. Waste. Camp Hastings near Cumberland, Maryland. Everything is quiet now, they will be moving camp to Cumberland City to do

Provost Guard duty. He is now the company commissary. It has been seven months since they have been paid.

- 16 Apr 1865 ALS William Waste to Sarah J. Waste. Camp near Winchester, Virginia. The prospect of war soon to be over. There is no rebel force near them except some calvary that sent a flag of truce to surrender.
- 29 Apr 1865 ALS William Waste to Sarah J. Waste. Camp near Winchester, Virginia. They have been very busy in camp, having to drill 3 to 4 hours each day and having an inspection or review. There is great sorrow in the camp because of the death of the president. About he assassin bing captured and shot. Johnson having surrendered his army. He hopes to be home by Jul 4<sup>th</sup>.
- 22 May 1865 ALS Alonzo Day to Sarah J. Waste. Knoxville, Tennessee. Thanking her for the box of goodies from home. The currants and sugar ruined but the tea and dried beef ok. He will not be home by the 4<sup>th</sup> of Jul probably not until fall. He only has three and one half months left to serve.
- 21 Dec 1865 ALS Luke Waste to William and Sarah J. Waste. Willson's Mills. He tells them of the weather and that the last of the boys in blue have just got home.
- 10 Jun 1866 ALS Luke Waste to William and Sarah J. Waste. Willson's Mills. Telling them he won't be coming to Wisconsin until next year. He talks about the land they own together in Wisconsin and about what William should be doing with it.
- 29 Jul 1885 Doc. Invitation to William Waste for him and his family and friends to attend the Annual Reunion of the 23<sup>rd</sup>, O.V.V.I. at Lakeside, Ohio, Aug 19<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>, 1885.
- 22 Jan 1888 ALS Charley to Miss Bertha Waste. Sparta, Wisconsin. He tells her of the gossip in town and not much else.