

Head Quarters 9<sup>th</sup> St, Vol

Fort Forttown 2A

August 17<sup>th</sup> 60

Dear Maria

I will try and write you but  
my letters will be short as my time is  
almost wholly occupied with my duties.  
Col. Ripley is at Ft. Monroe & Maj. Lewis  
is in command. I have to run the  
machine entirely alone. I have a  
battalion drill every afternoon of 2 hours  
and necessarily I am obliged to study tactics  
a great deal. I have just got through  
signing papers and that is no small job  
(each Co. as allowed fine). Col. Ripley is  
on an examining board for the purpose  
of examining any officer the Commanding  
officer of a Regt may think incompetent  
if he is found so (and they generally are)  
he is dismissed the service. Most of our  
officers are to appear before the board,  
The 19<sup>th</sup> Wis. send nine and the 99<sup>th</sup> N.Y.,  
send (4) four. This is a very good  
way to get rid of the poor officers.  
Our officers are generally good and the Col.  
thought that he would not bring them up