

**Letter from Edwin A Lowe, Pensacola, FL,
to his mother, Mrs. Lucetta S. (SOULE) Parker,
West Waterville, Maine, 4 March 1863**

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ENVELOPE:

Che P J ? Brown, 15th Me Vols
[Possibly Chaplain J Brown]

DUE 3

Mrs. Lucetta S. Parker
West Waterville
Kennebeck (Co) Maine

PAGE 1:

Camp Arnold
Pensacola Fla
March 4th 1863

Dear Mother

I received your kind letter of the 5th of Feb a few days ago and was glad to hear the you and the rest of the folks are well. I received your other letter too of which you spoke, and the reason I did not answer it at the time was that you inquired about a man named Parker, and finding by the Adjutant Gen^{ls} Report that he belonged to the 14th Maine instead of the 15th. I wrote to inquire about him and thought I should soon get an answer and would wait until I received it before writing to you,

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and so the subject being off my mind I neglected it much longer than I ought to have done – and sometimes when I want to write I have not time. I am glad you have been having so pleasant a winter in Maine; the Citizens here call this the coldest winter they have had for a long time, but to us of the north now here the weather has been most delightful, nearly all of the time, and we have off occasionally for few days at a time, what they call a Norther when when the mercury falls some – what below the freezing point so as to make ice. perhaps one third of an inch thick during the night, and at such times we need a number of Blankets to keep ourselves warm.. Quite a number of days the thermometer has indicated summer heat but it did not seem so warm -- we have got used to hot weather and

PAGE 3:

don't mind it as we did at first.. the sky has been clear most all of the winter – we have had but little rain since Sept.. the health of the Regt is now good. we lost but one man last month and he was a new recruit that came in from Rebeldom and enlisted the first of the month. We have had news to night that the City of Charleston is taken, but we have cheated so often with false news that we don't place much confidence in it. In answer to your inquiries about Mr. Nowland [Note-his brother-in-law, husband of his half-sister, Helen Augusta Parker], -- I have to say that as you have probably supposed, Liquor is all the trouble with him – he got to drinking hard while at Camp Parapet La and sent in his Resignation but Genl. Butler refused to accept it. then a short time after we came here he got to drinking hard and

after a while got so drunk that one night on dress parade he was unable to perform

PAGE 4: his post in truth he could not Sheath his sword – then charges were prefered against him and he under arrest for a while, and tendered his Resignation – which was sent on to head Quarters with a copy of the charges but what has become of either of them I do not know. but he was returned to duty after a Short time and has behaved himself since, and if he continues to do so I presume we shall hear no more of it. Col. Dyer (our Col.) is now in command of this Post. Since Genl. Dow left (near the last of Jan) and Mr. N. Acting Assistant Adjutant Gen^l, it is a good place for him and I am glad he has it – though it gives me much more work to do and I now have about all of the office business to do the both of us did before.

But I understand the mail is not going for two or three days yet so I will write no more to night. So good night and God bless you Dear mother.

Yours Affectionately

E A Lowe

NOTES on Edwin A Lowe's family, and persons mentioned in the letter, with further mention of his half-brother, Charles A. Parker

"Chap J I Brown" in the return address, is Josiah I Brown, who enlisted as the Chaplain of the 15th Maine 23 January 1862, of Whitefield, ME, mustered out 15 June 1863 (Report of the Adjutant General of the State of Maine; Civil War Soldiers and Sailors System, Film M543, roll 3.)

"Col Dyer" was Isaac Dyer, Lieut. Col, 15th Maine Infantry, appointed 17 Dec 1861, promoted Colonel 26 Aug 1862. He became the colonel of the Regiment when it reorganized in 1862, and was mustered out at the end of his commission, 9 September 1865. (Shorey, Henry A, The Story of the Maine Fifteenth, Bridgton, ME: Bridgton News, 1890, App pg 2)

"Genl. Dow" was Gen. Neal Dow, of Portland, Maine, known as the father of the 1850 Maine prohibition law, which by 1918 had become an amendment to the US Constitution.

"Camp Arnold" was probably named after General Richard Arnold.

Lucetta SOULE, was born in Waterville about 1799, and died in Ashland, ME March 1885. She was the daughter of Asa and Olive (SOUTHWORTH) SOULE. She married first at Waterville David LOWE. She married second at Waterville, 1827 Alexander L PARKER, b 1803 (1850Census, Waterville), was listed as a butcher in 1850, who was born in Winslow 16 Dec 1798, and died in Ashland, ME March 1885.

Children by first husband:

- 1—LOWE, Angeline, no further record.
- 2—LOWE, David, born Sidney ME about 1820, and died Sidney, ME, married Waterville 1 Dec 1839 Betsey HALLETT; daughter Helen S, 17 In 1880, res with them (1880C, Sidney, ME).
- 3—LOWE, Edwin A; born Waterville, married Amanda WHITE, died 12 August 1909, White Settlement, Houlton, ME, widowed, a carpenter (Maine Death Records 1617-1922). He served Companies B and E, 15th Maine Regiment, enlisted as Sergeant, discharged as First Lieutenant (Civil War Soldiers, record group M543 Roll 13). App, from N.C. Staff, April 26, 1865, and detailed as Acting Adjutant, Mustered Out with Regiment, July 5, 1886 [sic, should be 1866?] (Shorey, Henry A, The Story of the Maine Fifteenth, Bridgton, ME, Bridgton News, 1890, Appendix, p12). 1900 Census for Houlton shows Edwin A Lowe, b Apr 1818 widower,; David S PARKS, son-in-law, b May 1868, 32, married 10 years, Clara PARKS, daughter, b Jan 1860, age 40, married 10 years, 2 children, 0 living, b Canada; also three boarders and a servant.

Children by second husband:

- 4—PARKER, Helen Augusta, born Waterville 8 Aug 1827, died Ashland, ME 23 Sep 1903, married as her second husband, Hodgdon ME 1849 James NOWLAND, born Liverpool, ENG 11 Nov 1808, died Ashland ME 1 Mar 1886, moved to Ashland 1863, worked as an accountant for Jewett & Pitcher Lumber Co. He was an adjutant in the 15th Maine, appointed 20 Nov 1861, and as reorganized in the summer of 1862; he resigned at Camp Parapet, 11 Sep 1863. He is prominently mentioned in the above letter.
- 5—PARKER, Angeline, born 1829, d young.
- 6—PARKER, Olive, born 1831, d NH; not shown in 1850 Census of Waterville.

- 7—PARKER, Charles A, born 1831 (1850C), died of pneumonia at Littleton NH on 19 Nov 1893, age 62-4-23, buried Littleton, NH. He married first Mary F _____, possibly CHAPMAN; married second at Haverhill NH on 21 Aug 1879 Sarah N BURNHAM, d/o Moses W and Lovisa R (_____) BURNHAM, being the 2nd marriage for him, and the 1st for her. In the 1870 Census he is in Lynn, MA, married to Mary F _____ and living with Hannah CHAPMAN, age 63. In 1880, he is in Littleton NH with wife Sarah N, age 36, and four boarders, listed as a scythe maker. The 1890 Veterans Census for Littleton NH says he was a sergeant in Co E, 98th NY Infantry, enlisted at Malone, NY 8 Mar 1861, discharged 8 Jun 1863, service 1 year 7 months. His Civil War Pension Record says he was invalid June 15 1885, Sarah was a widow 24 Jan 1894. PARKER, CHARLES S A.—Age, 29 years. Enlisted at Malone, to serve three years, and mustered in as private, Co. E, November 22, 1861; promoted sergeant, no date; discharged, June 2, 1863. (98th NY Inf Roster, p1147)
 - 8—PARKER, Albert A, born Nov 1833, lived in West Waterville (Oakland) at 76 Church Street. He was a carriage painter and worked for Benjamin C. Benson in his shop. On 9 June 1857; he married Elizabeth Cummings BENSON, B C Benson's daughter. They had three children, Carrie, born 1858, Fred, born 1862 or 1863; and Myron, b 1866 or 1867.
 - 9—PARKER, Olive S, born 1836.
 - 10—PARKER, Alpheus Lyons, born 1840, married Mary Alice CAMPBELL.
 - 11—PARKER, Augustus H, born 1848.
- SOURCES: 1850C Waterville, 1870C Waterville; 1870C Lynn MA; 1880C West Waterville; 1890 Veterans Littleton NH; NH Death Records; Porter, Early Houses of Oakland Vol 1, p40; Shorey, Henry A, The Story of the Maine Fifteenth, Bridgton, ME: Bridgton News, 1890, App pg 2



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March 4th 1865

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what below the freezing point so as
to make ice, perhaps one third of
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Yours affectionately
E. A. Sears