

Fort Richmond Ny September [Fort Richmond, Stanton Island, New York -Re-named Fort Wadsworth in 1865]

18<sup>th</sup> 1863

Dear Sister [Samantha E. (Holt) Titus, Square's older sister] I take the present opportunity to write you a few lines in answer to your kind letter which I got the 14<sup>th</sup> well Mant [Samantha] I am well as usual Co B has made another short move we have moved inside the Fort & have got good wall tents with bunks & straw beds which I think will make us quite comfortable Byron {Private Byron Holt, Square's older brother} is complaining some he don't seem to get very tuff & I don't know as he ever will as long as he stays in the army we are getting a little rain to day &

good of wind the day is quite rough this afternoon I was on guard yesterday it takes 150 men a day to do the guard duty here we have to come out on guard mount & dress parade with white gloves on good land do you suppose that I will ever work any when I get home as much of a gentleman as I am wear white gloves & paper collar I could do that to home who wouldn't list in the army well I guess I have wrote nonsense enough but that is our style this Fort that we are in mounts about 150 guns & looks like an infant beside the one they are building on the hill above this

well Mell [Melville J. Titus, brother-in-law] we have got some of dem [them] are little guns what I can crawl

into sitting up here waiting  
for Johny Bull ["Johny Bull" a satirical reference to the Confederates] to come over  
the bare gun 500 80lbs [580 lbs., a standard Union 8 inch Smoothbore canon]  
carries aball that weighs & 50lbs [Federal Spherical common 7.8 inch shell]  
they have got one just across  
the River [The Hudson River] to Fort Hamelton [Fort Hamilton, Brooklyn, New York]  
that carries 1000 lbs ball [possibly the Rodman "Monster" 20 inch gun that was earmarked for Fort  
Hamilton in 1864, fired a shell of 1080 lbs.] that  
is what they tell me I haven't  
seen it this fort is all built  
of cut stone the work is  
splendid on it to  
I havent got any letters since  
Monday the day we got here  
I loock for one or two this  
afternoon the boys come out  
better on that clothing dicker  
than they expected to they warent [weren't]  
furnished atall well I cant  
think of much news to write

Colonel Farrer [Colonel Judson S. Farrar] has just xx (scratched out)  
returned he has been home  
on a twenty day furlough  
I cant send this out till m???  
so I will wait till the mail  
comes 19<sup>th</sup> well I didnot  
get any mail yesterday  
tell Hannah [Hannah J. Holt, Square's wife] I will write her  
aletter to day no more  
this time  
my love to all

S Holt  
Co B 26<sup>th</sup> Mich Inft  
NY City