

James M. Scythes, This Will Make a Man of Me: The Life and Letters of a Teenage Officer in the Civil War. Bethlehem, Pa.: Lehigh University Press, 2016.

Weakly indexed

2nd Lt. Thomas Jefferson Howell, 17 year old officer who died early in the war, 31 letters, 34 additional letters not Gloucester Historical Society--transcribed, could not find originals;

Co. I, 3rd N.J. infantry

Grounded in appropriate secondary works on both youth and the Civil War

Born in 1844 into a prosperous family

Camden--father active in religious causes, colonization, temperance,

One of ten children

Received a classical education

Howell in enlisted at ago of seventeen and sought a commission

Duty, needed the money,

Scythes offers much context on Howell's enlistment and military career

Arrived in camp in January 1862

Had himself a new uniform made in Philadelphia and his picture taken

Arrived in Virginia in February 1862

Had to grow up in the army and greatly missed his family

Appalled by the behavior of men and officers in his regiment--ideal of Christian soldier??

Complain of immorality and Sabbath violations

Marching and boots on the route to Manassas, then transferred to the Peninsula

Hard to leave home but war will make a man of him, 36

Tent fire, 39

Sabbath observance, perhaps worth quoting, he is rather priggish, 40

Guard duty described in detail, p. 41, 51

Sees Alexandria, Va. as a nest of rebels that should be burnt down. 41-42

Camp servants, 42

Anticipated an attack on Confederates at Manassas, 47  
Court martial, treason, 48

Chaplain, criticized, quote, 48

McClellan review of troops, 49

Pleased that he did not fall behind on recent march, young man coming into his own? 50

Review of troops, McDowell, Keary, McClellan, 51-52

Target practice, 52

Problems with officers, 53

Soldier pay, 54

Sutlers, 55

Drummer boy, 55-56

Boots hurt his feet, 56-57

Shelter and cold, good vivid description, 58

Food, 58

Box, 58

Nicely brings in accounts from other soldiers in the regiment, 71

Romantic view of war--quotable, p. 72

Very good background and contextual information on Peninsula campaign

Marching through Alexandria, 89--letters really pick up at this point??

Many men sick, fever, 90

Remember him to lady friends at home, 91

Anxious to lead storming party, 92

Romantic imagination of war, p. 93--quote

Expects hot work soon enough, 94

Discipline case with a soldier, shows some discretion, quote, pp. 96-97

Zouave ambushed and killed in swamp by whites and blacks, 101

Wants to shoot such an enemy like dogs, 101

Foraging and grabbing rebel property, 102

Appalled by treatment of slaves, 103

Expects to be in Richmond soon, May 12, 1862, 103

\*McClellan, 104

Expects to answer letters from Richmond, 106-7, 110

Soldiers falling out of march in the heat, 107

Chastised by his colonel and responds angrily, 108

Strict but also treats his men well and they like him, 108

Deplores whiskey ration, 110

Balloon intelligence, 111

Watch battle of Seven Pines, 113

Young soldiers, full of life, want to brag to rebel pickets about taking of Corinth, 116

Mechanicsville, 117

Burials, 122

Guard duty, 125

Chaplain, 125-26

Whiskey ration, 126

Will resign commission if he is spared in coming battle (which he will not be)

Seven Days, 129

Regiment heavily attacked at Gaines's Mill--brigade broken and fled through woods--Howell torn to pieces at the very end of the engagement

Body never recovered---generally well told story