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Correspondence

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10-3-1854

### Gilmore, Eliza OH (Mother), 10/3/1854

O.O. Howard Collection

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He came full to  
Lives to -  
West Troy -  
Lan & will  
them to my  
attendance  
Doubtless

Wateroliet Arsenal West Troy N.Y.  
Oct. 3<sup>d</sup> 1854

My dear Mother,

I have now arrived at my post, and may consider myself fairly settled. I came here from West Point Saturday, I presume you may have heard from me through Laura's letter, since she wrote immediately on reaching Philadelphia. I had a very pleasant time there. I bought a watch. Mr Greble my classmate's father, was about to get one for his son, so we went together to an importer. I found the fifty dollar hunting watches rather small for a gentlemen's watch & thin-cased, so I concluded by Mr Greble's advice to purchase one at 60 dollars. It is an elegant watch & would be sold at retail for as much as 75 or 80 dollars. I saw two or three of my class in Phil<sup>a</sup>. Decker was there with his father. He had lost his mother since we parted at West Point. His home was in Alabama; but his mother having been for some time out of health, his father had spent much time in travelling about at the North, particularly in warm weather. I started from Phil<sup>a</sup> at 6 o'clock in the evening

on Tuesday I arrived in N. York about ten.  
I went to visit Sarah the next day. found her  
looking nicely. She & Frank both seem reconciled to  
the will of Heaven - They have family prayers at  
evening regularly & appear to manifest a Christian  
spirit in all things. I left New York on Thursday  
and staid at West Point till Saturday morning  
where I found Mr Sill, who I had hoped to  
find here. He was there instructor in the  
English Department in the 5<sup>th</sup> Class, for they  
now have five classes at the Point instead  
of four. The course of study has been increased &  
differently distributed since I was there - But I  
presume you are impatient to hear more about  
my present position. I can tell you in the words  
"There no man could be better situated." I arrived  
at Troy about two o'clock - went trunk & all by express  
to the ferry. Got aboard in Onondaga on the boat  
and was dropped at the Consecrated Gate - The point  
is guarded by tall Elms which interlock their shades - Between  
which & the fence is the side-walk. The fence in front  
is of iron similar to that at Augusta - but the remaining  
portion is a high stone wall capped by a coping. The  
grounds are beautiful even at this season of the  
year - They have large gardens - for fruits, grapes, flowers  
&c. &c. - But I will cease my describing. I tell you somewhat  
of the occupants. The soldiers helped me bring in my  
trunk & pointed out the Lieutenant's quarters - I got

a lunch - and asked for Mr Boggs a classmate of Mr Lillie. He drilled me when I first went to West Point & always had a high regard for me. He was out, so I sauntered about the grounds - and finally went to the quarters of the Commanding officer Maj Symington. I was invited in but he being out dinner I concluded to call again. Towards night I met Maj Laddie the Adjutant - who is soon to leave. He pointed out Maj Symington coming towards us. I went to meet him & introduced myself. He is one of the pleasantest of men - rather slow of speech - but very kind, very much like Uncle Benign. He took me to his quarters - on the way we met his wife who invited me to tea that evening. I spent some time with him & then returned to the Lieutenants' quarters - I found Mr Boggs - that night we spent at the Major's very pleasantly. Miss Mary Symington is a young lady 14 or nineteen - Mr Boggs' sister, a beautiful girl from Georgia was there & two or three other ladies - Maj Laddie came for me to go to church on Sunday. He is a pious man & a perfect gentleman - I spent Monday evening at Maj Symington's & last evening at Maj Laddie's. Maj L. says I can have Maj Laddie's quarters if I will get married - There are two beautiful rooms with folding doors between, on the lower floor & a kitchen & apartments for those who keep it - above there are three rooms. Everything looks new, neat & elegant. The fireplace is surrounded by fine marble pieces -

The rooms are lighted by gas above & below & warmed  
by furnaces & stoves. You will form little idea of  
these quarters from my description. I can have them  
without paying anything for them - have my wood  
furnished me also & other little things - a large Garden  
&c. Mrs Lacey told me she wished a lady would go  
there to live - there are two sets of these quarters - one  
of which is shut up now. It would cost me something  
to furnish these but afterwards I could get on with-  
out much expense. Here in the mess we have a  
family - an excellent one. The woman takes care of  
everything for her family's board. Each of us has a  
room above & we have a common parlor below.  
If I live here I will have to furnish my room -  
and buy my part of the mess furniture, which I  
will again sell at a small discount when I leave.  
My clothes are taken care of, brushed & mended - my boots &  
shoes always blacked - & clothes washed and done up  
nicely - and for all it costs between 20 & 24 dollars  
per month. I am Officer of the day to day (Wednesday)  
drilled a company one hour before breakfast  
this morning - My Commander gave me some  
drawings also yesterday - so I must have enough  
to do - There are several large machine  
shops here - where they make batteries - Artillery  
carriages & everything demanded in service. Here  
they repair muskets & make new ones - I have  
to inspect the shops besides the Guard - soon I will be  
Post Treasurer - I will write again soon -  
W<sup>th</sup> affectionate regards  
C. S.

My name to all - all well