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Gilmore, Eliza OH (Mother), 11/5/1854

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Waterbury Arsenal

West Troy N. Y. Nov. 5th 54

My dear Mother

I am aware I have let too long a time elapse since I wrote you, & I have no particular excuse, I have kept on writing one letter after another since I have been here, but no person I believe except Lizzy has got more than one. But I have not heard from you directly since I left home. Have you written and your letter been mispent? or have your duties your^d health prevented you from penning me a few lines. I heard from you at Maria's wedding. Through Aunt Ann & Maria also. For I happened to go to the city about the time Maria came & went to see her at her Uncle's, Mr Thomas Merrick's. I spent two evenings with her. I went down on Monday & returned on Wednesday, stopping at West Point on my way back. Mrs Lee was to accompany me to Waterbury, but unforeseen circumstances prevented her from coming so I returned alone. I am still pleased with Waterbury. Maj Laidley has left, so there are but two of us Lieutenants here at present. I have to go on as officer of the day every other day. I am treated like an own child by the Maj & his wife, always welcome

at their quarters. I am always invited over when the family is. Though I do not go when I am officer of the day, except with the Major's consent. The family that lives in the Mess consists of James, his wife & child, her mother and a girl we hire. My room is always put in order - fire built, shoes blacked &c. without my troubling myself. Our meals are excellent, always ready at the hour. The woman whose name is Ellen, assists me in my purchases. She knows where to get my furniture cheap - got my trunks & hemmed them. My shirts, pillow cases &c. in fact she is ready & willing to do everything for our comfort, which is the more surprising as the only remuneration she receives is her little family's board & the privilege of remaining in the house. It costs us from 20 to 25 dollars per ~~month~~^{month} for board, washing, mending &c. inclusive.

(Tuesday) I fear if I do not send this, this morning you will think you are never to hear from me. I wrote Grandma a letter a short time ago. I hope she is well. Mr. Bogg's was ordered away on a tour of inspection. I will now have the duties of Adjutant, Quartermaster Treasurer, & Officer of the day every day. Cannot leave the Post well for two or three weeks.

Surely I cannot flatter myself that I have nothing to do. My Lyngton will leave me for two days when I will be sole in command. The responsibility is more than the actual duty. I am in good health till I'll be to write me. Hope Father's health is

good as well as your own. Is Poland at home
yet - likely to get married? I must go and inspect
the shops, barracks, barracks & stables -
and lest I should not be able to finish
this before another day - I fear your
may be anxious for me. I will soon
give my love to all.

Yours affectionately
O. O. Howard