

On board steamer "Achilles."  
March 26<sup>th</sup> 1862.

Dear Father

We have just rounded "Smiths Point," and are now in the Chesapeake on our way to Fort Monroe. We left Alexandria yesterday (Tuesday) morning abt. 6 A.M. with three schooners, the Mary Anna, Dan<sup>d</sup> C. Higgins, and Joseph Home, and one brig, the J.W. Drake, in tow. They have four companies of Artillery on board, - part of Gen. Porters division. Our orders were to follow the steamer Washington Hunt, - a somewhat difficult task, as she was then about three miles astern of us, and although we "shut off," & went as slow as we possibly could, she could not catch us.



We could not stop for her to get up, as there was a strong wind and tide against us, which would have driven us on shore.

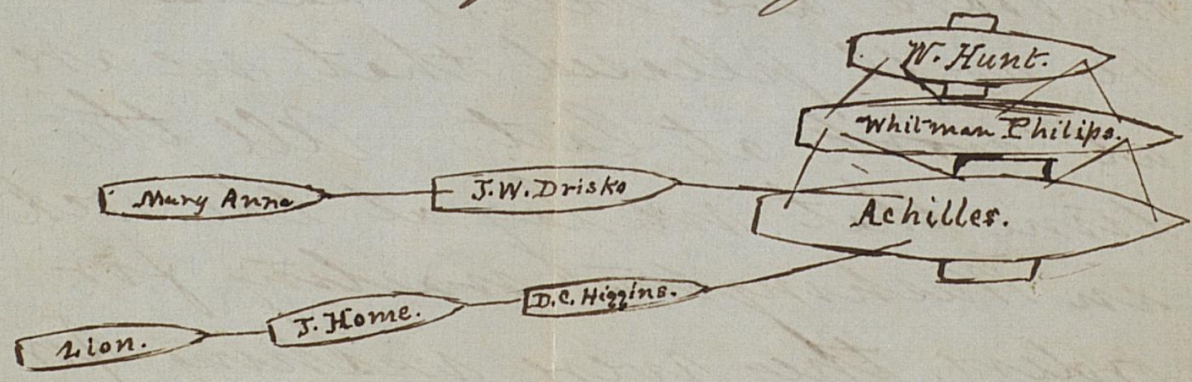
Finally, the W. Hunt was kind enough to get ashore herself, and knowing then that there was no use waiting for her, we came down the river with from 15 to 20 lbs of steam, made the most of the daylight, and anchored for the night at sundown, off Swan Pt. We had a splendid day, - it is quite warm here about noon, but the mornings & evenings are very cold. The officers, and some of the soldiers from the schooners, were on board nearly all day. We boiled their coffee in the furnace, & made them as comfortable as possible. Some of them told our men



that they had not passed such a pleasant day since they left Pittsburg. (it is a Penn. regiment)

They have to be watched of course for anything that they can lay their hands on is common property. The "Hunt" passed us about midnight, as we lay at anchor, so at 2 1/2 A.M. we got under way, and at 7.45 A.M. passed out by Point Lookout. At half-past-nine this morning we overtook the "W.H." with her two schooners, and towed them all in tow.

We are going down the bay now in the following order.



Virginia Shore.



The Whitman Phillips, & Lion are the two schooners the "Hunt" had in tow. It is perfect jolly to send such a boat at the U.S. to lead, - we can steam two knots to her one without trying, & are towing her along now as if her engine was stopped.

We shall reach Fortress Monroe about five this afternoon I expect. We may start for Washington again immediately, or it may be that we shall lie there a short time. I presume I shall be able to tell before I close this letter.

The boat is doing nicely. All on board are well, & seem to be well pleased that we are at work at last. All the time that we lay at the dock in Washington waiting for orders, they were wishing for something to do. - now it is all



right. We have officers on board, almost every hour I was going to say, - certainly three or four times per day. The whiskey that you gave the Capt. is certainly appreciated. He uses it very carefully, and I really think it has done us a great deal of good. We are on first rate terms with all the officers down here, and if at any time we <sup>should</sup> want any favor I think that they should be very glad to oblige us.

Our Pilot - Capt. Hopkins is a first-rate man, - knows the whole channel up & down, & is steady, quiet & cautious.

He is very easy to get along with, & I don't think you could have done much better if you had tried for a month. We have not been ashore yet, while scarcely another boat on the



river can say as much.

Please send me some Postage stamps. - I brought fifteen with me, & shall use the last one on this letter. It is very hard to get them here, - I saw a soldier pay ten cents for one, in Alexandria the other evening. I do not see why it should be so, but they told me at the P.O. that they were out, & did not know when they should get a new supply.

Affectionately

Appelton.

Thursday morn -

Arrived here at Fortier Monrovia abt. 7.0<sup>o</sup> East night. Anchored below the fort. The Capt. & I are going on shore to ~~the~~ the L.M. & report. Shall mail your letter here -

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