

Head Quarters 16th Me. Inf.
Camp near Belle Plain, Va.
March 21st 1863

Dear Cousin:

It came into my mind to day that it might be possible that you could render me some assistance about now by making favorable mention of me to the Governor as there are now seven or eight vacant commissioned Offices in this Regt. and for one of which I have undoubtedly been recommended by the Colonel ere this, as he has gone to Maine and intended so to do. The recommendation of the Colonel ought to be sufficient of course, and as Sergt Major, I am the first enlisted man in the line of promotion, - but it frequently happens that the recommendation of a man's

friends at home is of as much importance to him as that of the Commanding Officer of his Regt.

As it would do no harm, and perhaps be of service to me, I should like to have your recommendation to the Governor for a Lieutenantcy in this Regiment.

I think in case of my promotion, that Thomas Hopkins, at present serving as Clerk, would be selected to fill the vacancy, and who, by the way, performs his duties as Clerk to the satisfaction of all concerned.

As for news, I have none to write you. The Army of the Potomac seems to be in the midst of a calm, preparatory, I suppose, to the great storm of coming battles.

The men are in good spirits and feel confident of success when we again meet the enemy. My love to all, and believe me, truly and Affly, Your Cousin,
James R. Mayfield

To
Daniel H. Thayer, Esq.
Milton, Mass.

These are vacancies existing now in Companies A, B, C, H & K.

There are two lieutenants to appoint in Co. "F", and that is the Company to which I belonged before I was appointed Capt. Major.
J. D. M.

Leigh Knaf Mapfelds. 16th

Mar 21, 1863,

for promotion —