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Head Quarters Co. 16

1st Maine H. Art

April 23rd 1864

General

Your asking my Photograph is received and here it is the best I can do under the circumstances my military history is brief I was commissioned 2nd Lieut Co. E. 18th Maine August 1st 1862; went before Casey's house and was commissioned Capt 25th U.S. Colored troops January 18th 1864 and declined. 1st Lieut Co. E January 26th 1864 and Capt Co. 16 March 17th 1864 and here I am. I throw my first vote for Stephen A. and I offer up a daily prayer of thanksgiving that I was not old enough to vote for James Buchanan or else my soul might have had three great sin stones for. I am a firm supporter of the President's proclamation and if anything a little shade darker abolitionist than Wendell Phillips;

Very respectfully your Obedt
 John L. Hoelien }
 adjt Gen 25th U.S. Colored Troops }
 Wm. H. Cummings Capt 1st 16th Maine Artillery Co. 16