

Camp 5th Me. Bols.  
White Oak Church, Va. }  
Dec 31, 1862.

Hon. J. Washburn, Jr.,

Dear Sir:—

I have just been put in possession, through Maj. G. S. Jones, our paymaster, with the papers relating to my *Claim* against the U.S. Govt for pay as adjt. for that period of time in which I acted as such before being legally assigned to a company.

From them, I learn that my claim is not allowed, although it is not finally disposed of. By a letter from J. L. Warner, Esq., I was led to believe that the Secy of War, had decided in my favor. As possibly you may have later information upon the point than Maj Jones, I have drawn your attention to it at this time.

Maj Jones seems to have conducted the case in all fairness, and thinks that there was a short period after my Commission during which a vacancy existed, and he will be ready to pay <sup>for that time</sup> ~~it~~ when he comes again. For the balance, some over two months, he advises that I petition the legislature. It is his opinion that body

would pay the claim.

Pleading the needs of my family for thus  
intruding this matter upon your attention,

I remain,

Very respectfully

Your ob. servt.

W. L. Stevens

1st Lt. & Act. G. M. 5th Maine Regt

P. S.

In case you think it advisable for me to appeal  
to the legislature, I would like for your influence  
with the War Dept - to get me a short Leave of Absence.

I have other business requiring my attention, and the  
Col. (Scamman) has tried in vain to procure me  
a "Leave!"

W. L. S.