

Grover Waldo Co Maine
Sept 22nd 1863

Hon Abner Coburn
Governor of Maine

Dear Sir Permit me to call
your attention to the claims of my brother
Dr James D Watson. now Assistant Surgeon
3rd Maine Vols - for promotion to Surgeon.
I see reported a vacancy in the 20th Regt of
Dr Benson's resignation

1st He was examined by
the examining board of this State prior to his
appointment & passed as a Surgeon not as
Assistant

2nd He is 46 years of age has been in
practice as a Physician & Surgeon nearly 20 yrs
has a family, left a good practice - had performed
amputations and surgical operations of various
kinds, rather more than usually falls to the lot
of Physicians in common practice before
going into the service and is a man of
strictly temperate habits & principles

He was at his duty at the
Battle of Chancellorsville, & day & night for
days after, looking after the wounded &
at the Battle of Gettysburg & in the Hospitals
at that place since the battle until about 12
or 14 days ago he got a furlough of 15 days.

Ans. Waldo Sept 22nd
Rev. J. D. Watson, M.D.

Many of the sick & wounded having been removed to Hospitals in other places - I think he told me some 40 under his charge were removed to Alexandria -

His furlough was for so short a time that it made it inconvenient for him to see you personally. He was to take the boat from Belfast - Monday (yesterday) of this week on his return to his Regiment. I think he told me he saw you in the cars as he was coming home. He arrived here Saturday (before our Election - Monday) Came home to vote & see his family -

4" He has been an active Republican ever since the party was organized. (was a whig in the Harrison Campaign) has never asked or received any office (Civil Office), at the hands of the party. Now when he asks a Surgeoncy (directly in the line of his profession) his claim ought certainly to weigh heavily over the claim of any man who has fought against the Republican Party - until that Party became "the Party" in power & then suddenly shifted his "liberty rights" into the scale already borne down by good Republican voters - and because "out of sight" on his duty ought not to be forgotten

And men appointed who have not seen service or practice as he has. Simply that by personal impatience & pressure of their friends they sway the appointing power. I do not say that this has been the case with the appointments from this State - but I do charge that there are men in the Potomac army from these States - devotees of Patriotism, for their pay only - who talk against the Administration & this as they say "D - d Abolition war" - say they would love to clean out Washington &c. I am informed even in the presence of soldiers. (It has been so stated by correspondents & I have no reason to disbelieve it) become sort of McChalmers.

Now the point I make is that a Surgeon from his intercourse with the men of his Regiment has a good deal of influence either for the good of the Cause actively - or sort of passively to its injury. And that a Republican from principle who joined the party when it was feeble & helped build it up is the man to be trusted in that position.

5" Requests were sent into Gov Washburn signed I believe by most all the leading men in this County for my brother's appointment to a Surgeoncy. He waited sometime was offered the Assistant's place it being stated to him that there might not

be a vacancy of Surgeon very soon then he accepted
the assistant Surgeon place expecting an appointment
to a Surgeon in some Regiment When a vacancy
might occur I presume those papers are now
on file when you can examine them and see that
he was recommended by men of Character & Political
Standing If they are not if you desire I will send
you a request for his appointment signed by every
leading man in this County and also letters of
recommendation from Hannibal Hamlin (in whose
town Hamden my brother practiced about 6 years)
From Judges Davis & Dickerson. - Judge Davis has been
acquainted with him from boyhood.

When I last saw my brother
I gave him to understand that while he was doing his duty
"in the field" "On the front" I would procure & send you
letters from such men as I have named & a request signed as
mentioned - that his interest in the "rear" might not go
neglected but as the Council meet so soon there is
not time & perhaps the vacancy in the 20th Regt might
be filled at the next session, he would like an appointment
in the 20th or some other Regt in the Potomac Army but
will go to any other where duty & orders call.

Hildreth the Surgeon of the 3^d Regt and also
the Asst Director of his Army Corps I think have asked
for his promotion.

The fact that I was a delegate to the
Convention at Bangor (on Committee on resolutions) when your
name was presented as candidate for Governor and voted
for & used what influence I could for your nomination then
when Washburns friends outvoted us there (I acquiesced as became
the vanquished in the decision of the Convention) & sustained
you as far as I could when afterwards nominated
is in my mind sufficient justification for calling your
attention to this claim as I have done (personal
attention) by this long letter Very Respectfully Yours
Albert Watson