

August 23, 1894

My dear Tourgee:-

I have been thinking of the difficulty you must experience in gathering the right materials for your history, and I regret that I can not render the assistance which you might reasonably expect from me. But I really can not. For thirty years I have been resolutely forgetting all I ever knew about the 105th, and I have succeeded beyond my fondest expectations.

Do you have, or have you seen, Whitelaw Reid's "Ohio in the War?" It is a bulky work in two large volumes, not particularly meritorious, but it might possibly furnish you data or suggestions.

As you are doubtless aware, the State has published in a dozen large volumes a roster of all the regiments, batteries, etc., enlisted in Ohio. If you do not have and think you could use it, I will send you by express the volume containing the roster of the 105th. Opposite the name of Joe Warner stands the entry - "Reduced to the ranks" - as though a punishment for misconduct. The fact is that Joe voluntarily resigned in order that as a private he might get a detail as orderly at Headquarters. The action was entirely honorable on his part and should so appear on the record. There are other unjust entries due, I think, to the wooden-headed god of stupidity sent to torment the boys of Co. G. before their time. Col. Perkins, or some one in authority, should have seen to it that no unjust stigmas should appear on the official published record. This was not done, and now the victims have no redress except such as you may be able to give them.

Two members of the 105th were graduated in the University of Michigan while I was there in 1867-8. Wm. B. Braman of Co. G. went through the Law Department and settled in Kansas. Orlando Dimmick, Co. F., went through the Medical Department, and, I think, also went to Kansas, but I don't know the address of either. Charles Radcliff, Co. F, publishes, or did, a few years ago, a newspaper in Lake county, Michigan.

I doubt whether all this helps you in the least, but if it is accepted as an evidence of good will, I have not written in vain.

I regret to add that the trouble in my eyes has taken on a form which is pronounced incurable. This does not necessarily mean total blindness, near or remote, but my vision is greatly, and I fear, permanently impaired.

With best wishes for your success in your present undertaking,

I am very truly yours,

W. J. Gilman.