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Col. Thomas W. Cahill Civil War Letters

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9-10-1864

## Letter to Margaret E. Cahill, 1864 September 10

Thomas W. Cahill

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Head 2<sup>nd</sup> 9<sup>th</sup> Conn Vols in  
the Field near Berryville Va  
Sept. 10<sup>th</sup> 1861

My Dear Wife

We are still here taking things  
quietly and comfortably. Our baggage wagon  
came up last night. I see no immediate  
prospect of a move. Early is still some 4 or  
5 miles in our front although the papers  
say he is in Petersburg but our Command  
does say not and that they have felt his  
lines for 8 or ten miles in length. I do  
not see how he can stay here a great while  
as our Officers say they see no need of making  
all the forage as they fell back from  
Winchester and there certainly is not much  
left within our lines. We live on Com  
missary stores and mighty dear living it  
is. I am 29<sup>th</sup> Lucas 25<sup>th</sup> Hard Jack 26<sup>th</sup> Park  
26<sup>th</sup> Parabols 4<sup>th</sup> a pound. There is in Camp two  
Coke stagers one of them a son of Barney



Coulson of Morocco Street the other person  
is Robert Fraser who says his Mother living  
at 136 East Street I am trying to help  
them along as the soldiers are not quite  
so lavish with their food as they used  
to be, in fact they cannot, as they are  
only furnished a two third ration  
and each one cooks for himself so  
that Stragglers do not fare as well  
as they used to with the Regiment  
now even the little I give them in  
rats, I intend however to hedge the  
Expense by carrying their names  
on my pay Roll as servants  
so that with a little management  
everything helps I have not pur-  
chased but one Check as yet I  
paid 6 dollars for it through  
Barney. I will buy as many more  
as I can afford at that rate and  
send them to you for collection  
which you only need to present  
at Treas. Office to do by the by



I want you to send me some State Bonds  
by checks those for 10 dollars with Fitch's  
name on them send them in envelopes  
as letters putting in as many as you can  
for letter weight or ask at the Post  
Office for the weight and put on stamps  
enough to carry it, I shall probably send  
you one from Co. D, I could buy  
more but I have no blank.

I have received no mail for  
5 or 6 days but I have written  
nearly every day on every sec-  
ond day. There is a good deal of  
excitement about Officers going out  
all whose terms expire say they are  
going out, but all who have been  
promoted during their term must  
remain for three years from date  
of promotion P. Bowen has a little  
more than a year J. E. Hoyle and A. H. Wil-  
liams about the same. They are  
mighty anxious to know what they  
are going to do. do not let on to any



Except Fatherland what I am to do  
of course you can be as strong  
as you like about getting me  
out. Of course I went in there  
and time in good faith and  
if the Government saw fit to  
~~let~~ hold me they might do  
so and it was not my fault  
that they did not see fit to hold me  
to my bargain. I must say when  
I hear of them paying \$1,500 dollars  
for substitutes I think I would  
pay better to go home and enlist  
as a substitute

All who are present are well  
Except J. M. Neil who has return-  
ed and who is about the likeliest man  
of his bargain as any one I have  
seen. Garry Scott has not yet re-  
turned. Young Donnelly Richard  
has returned and looks very well.  
J. S. is well and on the jump all  
the while doing more work than any  
size of the other. He is both Division  
and Brigade Surgeon. Remember  
me to Fatherland I have heard  
from him yet. My love to Ellen  
and Kiss the Babies as usual  
tell them papa will be coming  
home in 49 days if God spares  
him  
your loving husband  
Thos. Child