

9-6-1861

## 1861-09-06 Colonel Charles Roberts reports the election of officers within the 2nd Regiment

Charles W. Roberts

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Confidential

Col. Roberts  
Fort Concoran  
Sept. 6

Head Quarters  
Fort Concoran  
2nd Regt. Maine Volunteers  
Sept. 6th, 1861.

Dear Sir

On the 4th inst I telegraphed you as follows "Send Major's Commission to Captain, F. C. Foss, yesterday I telegraphed you to delay sending the same at present."

After looking at the matter I came to the conclusion (at the time I sent the first despatch) that if you exercised the power of promoting Field Officers, you might also exercise the same in relation to appointments, but a debate arising in regard to the question, being the commissioned officers, the same being overheard by me, I immediately ordered an election at 7 1/2 o'clock this eve, at the same time countermmanding my first despatch. The election is just over and the result is as follows viz.

1st Ballot 22 votes, majority for a choice 12  
Capt Daniel Chaplain 9-  
2nd Whole number 22, Captain Chaplain's name, the

requisite numbers. After which the election  
was made unanimous, and Daniel Chaplain  
is by election Major. The selection does not please  
me neither does Sturney. Capt Foss was the man  
whom we desired, he is much younger than the  
Major elect, and a superior officer, but as we  
were not consulted in the matter, could not of course  
consistently interfere. I am truly sorry, but the deed is  
done and the undoing would now I fear have a  
bad effect upon the regiment. I will however add,  
before leaving the subject, that Captain Chaplain has  
always endeavored to do his duty. Should another case  
of this kind arise, please at once order me together  
with the remaining Field Officer to forward a suggestion  
or recommendation and on the strength of the same  
apport, this in nine out of ten cases I am satisfied  
would be the better course.

I recd your letter yesterday  
in regard to vacancies. I sent to adj Genl's office,  
to day and he informs me that he notified you the  
17th of August last of the discharge of Captain Bartlett  
Company A, and Lieut Woodrill company B, there include  
I believe all our resignations heretofore made. Capt.  
Jones of Company C, is undoubtedly dead. Lieut.

Skinner is a prisoner at Richmond and  
Lieut Morris is now in command and as  
he could not perform both the duty of Captain and  
Lieutenant, I had at his suggestion temporarily  
appointed as Lieutenants the individuals I sent  
forward to you for promotion. They are very worthy  
men and will make excellent Officers. I hope  
therefore that their commissions will soon be forthcoming.  
~~An order~~ <sup>a</sup> brevet appointment might possibly  
as regards 1st Lieut. answer the purpose an  
order had recently been issued that Officers when  
taken by the enemy will be considered as discharged  
from the Service but am not sure whether said  
order applies to Officers. Our Regiment is today  
in quite a flourishing condition, having used throughout  
a suit of blue, they now appear quite like regulars  
and were it not for this blunder or mishap in  
regard to Major I should feel quite satisfied, however  
as I said before Capt. Chapman may by exertion become  
a good Field Officer. Dr. Monnier has arrived and  
takes head of his department in good earnest. As  
I have of course as regards his case no fault to  
find I shall I think before long detail one or two  
Lieutenants <sup>or a Captain</sup> for recruiting Service, but our rest is

already so lacking in common sense  
that it is difficult for me to spare my list  
at present - By the way, I have a surplus  
of the new furnished traps, which I accumulated  
I trust you will remember us. The  
 requisite number required, I will however  
send you shortly. As to rifles or rifle muskets  
I do not desire a change, unless I can  
have the whole regiment provided, as two different  
kinds of arms often creates trouble in  
regard to ammunition. The war like Jeff  
seems is dead, pity that he could not have  
made it convenient to leave all mortal scenes  
a little sooner. But even his decease must  
rather dampen the ardor of our dear friends  
both in the South as well as at home. Rays  
of cheering light are daily dawning upon  
the bosoms of our army, and after the next  
great engagement, I think the future will be  
slightly revised when compared with that so  
poorly executed at Bull Run. You will of course  
be present before he returns -  
In haste I remain  
Very respectfully Yours  
Chas. S. Roberts  
Col. 2nd Ill. Cav.