

6-7-1863

**1863-06-07 Captain Daniel Marston writes Governor Coburn about concerns with Maxfield's drinking and unsuitability for promotion over Coston**

Daniel Marston

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Camp 16<sup>th</sup> Me. Regt  
New White Oak Church Va  
June 7<sup>th</sup> 1863  
Gov. Coburn  
Dear Sir:

I write you by  
request of a young man of Co. A in  
this Regt. in regard to a matter which  
he wishes me to lay before you. You  
has been commissioned by you as a  
1st Lt. in his Co. & our Col. is not sat-  
isfied with your judgment or decision  
in the matter. & report says he (the Col.)  
will not sign his "muster in" papers. &  
the reason is, I am told, because you  
did not commission Maxfield as  
recommended by him. Maxfield is the  
Adjutant's clerk & Sergt Major; has  
never carried a gun or done duty in his  
Regt. in any other way except as above  
Nov. Gov. Coburn. I do not desire

to dictate you or the Col. in your judgment of a accepting a commission at all  
ment of men in matters of Military, but + he had felt so hurt about it on  
I say I do coincide with you in your decision in this case - For reason. acc' of the Col.'s representations  
that said Costan is entitled to the position you gave him as he is the Or-  
derly Sgt of his Co. + I have yet to  
learn that there is even one in his Co.  
that is not satisfied with his promotion  
+ many do feel very much disgusted  
of Maxwell especially when he has in-  
dulged in intoxicating drink to such  
a degree as to mortify the pride of  
us who are sober. And really it  
sometimes seems to me that in the  
opinion of our superiors in this Regt.  
it is looked upon as a qualification  
for promotion - + some officers can  
indulge to great excess + no notice  
will be taken of it at Regt Head  
Quar - Costan has been talked  
with by the Col. to give up the idea  
of accepting a commission at all  
+ he had felt so hurt about it on  
acc' of the Col.'s representations  
that at one time he almost decided  
to have nothing to do with it, but is  
now ready to go forward + perform  
his duty acc'ing to his best judgment.  
The Col. has as yet withheld the  
Commission sent him - Now, Gov.  
I have made a fair statement to you  
as far as I know. And although I  
do not consider myself your favorite  
I felt that I ought in duty to advise  
you of this matter. I have ever no-  
ticed for the past 2 years while in  
military service, as well as formerly du-  
ring my position as a Commander in  
the State Militia, that men do their  
duty best, when they have commanders  
that they respect, + of their choice  
+ when promotions, are made in order  
+ as in justice + right they belong,

Most all difficulties in Regts first  
originals from some error or over-  
reaching - or frauds in obtaining  
appointments out of the regular  
channel. There is at least one  
Co. in this Regt. that have no  
interest in their ready commissand  
Let. & they say they never will have

Very Respectfully  
Your Obedt. Servr.

Daniel Marston  
Capt. Co. C. 16<sup>th</sup> Regt. Me. Vol.