

MW-HB-56 Mexican–American War Letter Camp opposite Matamoros Transcription & Notes

[Address Panel] Capt. H. B. Chase Company E Washington Regiment Camp opposite Matamoros
[Letter – Approximate Transcription due to condition] ... Living here has been last Saturday ... I
shall naturally yield ... found still able ... health has not been good for some time ... I only got
here from Brazos Santiago ... I arrived Monday night ... after my arrival it was a severe blow ...
... I think that I was at Monterey ... she was far from looking like the fat fellow when she first
came to this world ... commenced falling off ... had a severe attack ... poor little fellow ...
suffering greatly ... what I have heard is from general report ... I have had two attacks ...
the fever ... and had somewhat the day before yesterday ... I stopped at the river ... how do
you all get on at home ... [Page 2] ... give my best and kindest respects to all friends ... I shall
not fail writing ... I have been moving and leaving the body of our ... [Page 3] ... making ...
Sturgis is here ... I have left a short time after I did ... when I got to the Brazos ... told me he
had arrived ... orders to go ... I have been in the hospital ... I wanted to get there ... I
got a horse ... [Page 4] ... sorry for any inconvenience ... I expected to return as soon as I could
... I arrived at Point Isabel ... Mrs. C and the widow Smith ... they had been to a ball the
night before ... Mr. C was here last Saturday ... Lewis is well ... he has written a letter ...
... the chap did not publish the letter ... he says he can prove ... he left the article with the
editor ... [Closing] Your obedient servant, C. Woodward

Historical Notes: - This letter is clearly associated with the Mexican–American War (1846–1848), specifically the U.S. Army encampments opposite Matamoros, Mexico. - The Washington Regiment referenced was a Louisiana volunteer unit active in the early campaigns of the war. - Mentions of Brazos Santiago and Point Isabel are significant: these were key U.S. supply and staging areas under General Zachary Taylor during the opening phase of the war. - Reference to “Sturgis” may relate to Samuel D. Sturgis, a U.S. Army officer who later became a Union general in the Civil War. - The mention of illness, fever, and hospital conditions reflects the widespread disease problems in U.S. camps during the campaign—often more deadly than combat. - The closing signature “C. Woodward” identifies the likely author; further cross-referencing may tie him to the Washington Regiment rolls. Archival Note: Condition and legibility issues required partial reconstruction. Bracketed gaps indicate uncertain or unreadable text.