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Cornelius Hook, Jr.
Correspondence, 1850-1865.

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Detailed list of correspondence

Descriptions include the date, author, recipient, and location as indicated in the letters (note that Hook appears to have written to at least three of his brothers, William, Thomas, and Marcus, and letters addressed to "Brother" may or may not include additional indications of which one it refers to). In some cases, dates and recipients were inferred from context; these are marked with a [?]. Notes in parentheses include excerpts or summaries for selected letters. These were compiled by Sheila Hook Peddy, a great-great niece of Cornelius Hook. Additional detail for selected letters has been added by IHLC staff.

The correspondence in the collection is arranged chronologically. Box 1 contains letters sent prior to Hook's graduation from West Point in July 1860, and Box 2 contains the remaining letters to 1865 as well as undated materials. Envelopes accompany some letters and are generally arranged in accordance with how the letters were received in 2015 (laid in front of the associated letter). These may or may not reflect the original pairings.

Box 1

1850, 1852 (2 letters)

July 24, 1850, Catharine Todd to Mrs. Hook, from Capa Bianico -
near Monticello

May 9, 1852, M. N. Collett to Ann Hook [Mother], from Sunny-side,
near Lebanon O[hio]

1855 (23 letters)

June 12, 1855, Cornelius to Parents, from Chicago

June 14, 1855, Cornelius to Parents, from Delavan House, Albany,
NY

June 16, 1855, Cornelius to Parents, from the Barracks, West
Point, NY

June 20, 1855[?], Cornelius to Parents, from Camp Calhoun, West
Point, NY

July 3, 1855, Cornelius to Brother, from Camp Calhoun, West
Point, NY

July 13, 1855, Cornelius to Mother, from Camp Calhoun, West
Point, NY

July 17, 1855, Cornelius to Brother, from Camp Calhoun, West
Point, NY

August 22, 1855, Cornelius to Brother, from West Point, NY

August 28, 1855, Cornelius to Brother, from West Point, NY

August 28, 1855, Cornelius to Mother, from West Point, NY

August 30, 1855, Cornelius to Mother, from West Point, NY

September 8, 1855, Cornelius to "Tom" (brother understood), from
West Point, NY

September 16, 1855, Cornelius to Brother, from West Point, NY

September 20, 1855, Cornelius to Brother, from West Point, NY

October 5, 1855, Cornelius to Brother, from West Point, NY

October 14, 1855, Cornelius to Brother, from West Point, NY

October 21, 1855, Cornelius to Father, from West Point, NY

October 28, 1855, William to Cornelius, from Jacksonville

November 10, 1855, Cornelius to Mother, from West Point, NY

November 15, 1855[?], Cornelius to Brother, from West Point, NY

November 14, 1855, Engineer Department to Parents and Guardians,
from Washington

December 9, 1855, Cornelius to Brother, from West Point, NY

December 23, 1855, Cornelius to Brother, from West Point, NY

1856 (22 letters)

January 9, 1856, Cornelius to Father, from West Point, NY
 January 16, 1856, Cornelius to Brother, from West Point, NY
 January 27, 1856, Cornelius to Brother, from West Point, NY
 February 6, 1856, Cornelius to Mother, from West Point, NY
 February 16, 1856, Cornelius to Brother, from West Point, NY
 March 3, 1856, Cornelius to Brother, from West Point, NY
 April 1, 1856, Cornelius to Brother, from West Point, NY
 April 10, 1856, Cornelius to Mother, from West Point, NY
 April 16, 1856, Cornelius to Brother, from West Point, NY
 April 24, 1856, Cornelius to Brother, from West Point, NY
 May 18, 1856, Cornelius to Brother, from West Point, NY
 May 26, 1856, Cornelius to Father, from West Point, NY
 June 5, 1856, Cornelius to Brother, from West Point, NY
 July 6, 1856, Cornelius to Mother, from West Point, NY
 August 12, 1856, Cornelius to Brother, from West Point, NY
 September 9, 1856, Cornelius to Brother, from West Point, NY
 September 19, 1856, Cornelius to Father, from West Point, NY
 October 20, 1856, Cornelius to Mother, from West Point, NY
 (Writes of standing in class. Ranks thinning fast, class began with 102 and now only 55 remain. Many more to leave in January. Went to Maj. Delafield to get permission to receive some things from home and he refused. He is the greatest hound imaginable and is cutting down in everything; changes to uniforms and take away gold chevron. Afraid he won't give us furloughs. Jeff Davis was here last week and was treated with great Honor; 15 gun salute. Went away in military fashion.)
 November 14, 1856, Cornelius to Brother, from West Point, NY
 November 26, 1856, Cornelius to Mother, from West Point, NY
 December 7, 1856, Cornelius to Father, from West Point, NY (Our Major Delafield first turned up all the mean parts of character, and showed his meanness off to advantage, now he has turned square about, and given us a glimpse of his better traits, he has given us permission to have a cricket-club, and furnished the necessaries, bats, balls &c, he has also given us footballs, and fixed up a gymnasium, but the best thing is that he has given us the fencing hall, to dance in for two hours every evening, and has it lit up and fires made, and also furnished three musicians. He say [sic] his intention is to make us happy. I hope he will succeed in going so.)
 December 26, 1856, Cornelius to Aunt, from West Point, NY

1857 (16 letters)

January 3, 1857, Cornelius to Father, from West Point, NY
 (Celebrated 20th birthday 12/1856. Had exam in Philosophy.
 Next Spanish. Defection of Douglas. Cpt. of Saratoga ordered
 home. Brigham Young still denounces our country.)

January 8, 1857, Cornelius to Will, from West Point, NY

January 22, 1857, Cornelius to Mother, from West Point, NY

February 8, 1857, Cornelius to Brother, from West Point, NY

February 18, 1857, Cornelius to Brother, from West Point, NY

March 12, 1857, Cornelius to Brother, from West Point, NY

March 23, 1857, Cornelius to Father, from West Point, NY (Pay has
 been raised to \$30 per month)

April 13, 1857, Engineer Department to Parents and Guardians,
 from Washington

April 10, 1857[?], Cornelius to Brother, from West Point, NY

April 23, 1857, Cornelius to Mother, from West Point, NY ("The
 time is fast approaching when we'll be free from misery. Oh
 yes, pass it round that furlough times are approaching, Great
 joy to all, both great and small".)

May 11, 1857, Cornelius to Brother, from West Point, NY

May 18, 1857, Cornelius to Brother, from West Point, NY

May 24, 1857, Cornelius to Mother, from West Point, NY

September 19, 1857, Cornelius to Mother, from West Point, NY

October 15, 1857[?], Cornelius to Brother, from West Point, NY

November 17, 1857, Cornelius to Mother, from West Point, NY

1858 (18 letters)

March 1, 1858, Cornelius to Brother, from West Point, NY
 (Troubles in Washington lately. Lt. Williams who fought Lt.
 Bell is one of my instructors in riding and one of the
 sternest officers I have ever seen. Altogether too military to
 suit my taste. The "Tribune" said a good thing about him. It
 said that Bell's bullet went to look for brains but not being
 able to fine any contented itself with his hat.)

April 1, 1858, Cornelius to Aunt, from West Point, NY

April 1, 1858, Cornelius to Mother, from West Point, NY (A great
 many here do not like the Episcopal form of service and
 several do not like any form that Christians make use of.)

April 26, 1858, Cornelius to Brother, from West Point, NY (with
 police report and Mess Hall certificate)

May 11, 1858, Cornelius to Brother, from West Point, NY

- May 30, 1858, Cornelius to Father, from West Point, NY
- June 5, 1858, Cornelius to Brother, from West Point, NY (Board of visitors. Had 15 gun salute, and grand review. A Magnificent affair. Review for General Scott.)
- June 12, 1858, Cornelius to Brother, from West Point, NY
- July 15, 1858, Cornelius to Brother, from West Point, NY (Judge Marshall attempted to touch me up on politics, could not comprehend his platform.)
- August 8, 1858, Cornelius to Brother, from West Point, NY
- September 8, 1858, Cornelius to Mother, from West Point, NY
(Enjoyed summer season. Visited hotel to see Mr. Goodell and family and met members of the board and their families (as well as young Ladies). Mrs. Walmuth brought an interesting young lady in her train. Went to a "hop", didn't attempt any fancy dances. Had last ball on the 25th and it lasted to 11:45p.m. Sang "Auld Land Syne" as we were leaving.)
- September 19, 1858, Cornelius to Father, from West Point, NY
- October 8, 1858, Cornelius to Brother, from West Point, NY
(President presented Academy with 3 flags. Two were captured by Washington and have become property of G. W. P. Curtis.)
- October 15, 1858, Cornelius to Brother, from West Point, NY
(Friend found him in deep reverie and swears it is love, with myself and not a rival in the world. Read "Livingston's Travels", and "Piazza Tales" by Melville.)
- October 25, 1858, Cornelius to Brother, from West Point, NY (Some Army friends have fallen; Gaston in Oregon; Magnundan in Kansas; Allen in Oregon and Van Camp in Comanche Country. He was from Jacksonville, a relation of the Carsons.)
- November 14, 1858, Cornelius to Brother, from West Point, NY
(Description of monies spent. What he wants and the lowest price.)
- December 9, 1858, Cornelius to Mother, from West Point, NY (Been in the hospital for my teeth. All front teeth worth anything filled. News of continued troubles in Mexico are arriving daily. Think U. S. will assume the protection of Chihuahua and Sonora. Will likely be there in the fall of 1861. Cuba too, I suspect, will soon fall into our hands. The Indian troubles in Texas still continue.)
- December 28, 1858, Cornelius to Mother, from West Point, NY
(Couldn't enjoy Christmas- no money to go with classmates)
- 1859 (19 letters)
- January 23, 1859, Cornelius to Brother, from West Point, NY
- February 6, 1859, Cornelius to Brother, from West Point, NY (Good fortune to be a 1st Classman, but a great deal of hard work.

All the bright anticipation formed by some of spending a glorious time, doing nothing in Chihuahua and Sonora are knocked in the head for the house has disagreed with the president. The Cuba situation will, I suppose, be settled in a similar manner. There never was a Congress assembled, which exhibited such a small amount of statesmanship as the present one. Lt. Reed of the Infantry died last night of heart disease. He was married in September.)

March 11, 1859, Cornelius to Mother, from West Point, NY

April 4, 1859, Cornelius to Brother, from West Point, NY (I've seen somewhere the assertion that nature had formed strange men in her time, but I'll venture that nature never formed two greater idiots than John Floyd, Secretary of War and Buchanan, President of the United States. Do you want to [know] my reason for saying this? I'll tell you. To-day, this afternoon, an order arrived changing the course of studies back again to five years, no reason is assigned.")

April 10, 1859, Cornelius to Brother, from West Point, NY
(Delafield says we are fit for service.)

June 6, 1859, Cornelius to Mother, from West Point, NY (It is so cold we have to have fires. The revenue Cutter Harriet Lane has been at our dock today. She brought from the city the niece of President Buchanan. This lady showed herself about in a very aristocratic way for a few hours and then left. Col. Delafield made a great fool of himself dressed up in his Sunday go-to-meeting clothes, plume, sash, Epuettes and all to receive the lady as if she was a reigning Queen.)

June 11, 1859, Cornelius to Brother, from West Point, NY
(President of Board is Col. Johnson of Ohio, a grand uncle of Jones in my class. He's 95 years of age, but still moves around with a great deal of activity. He is an old soldier and asked pretty hard questions in Military service. Seems to live more in the past than in the present. He heard Washington's last speech in the house and has seen almost every President since Gen. Scott.)

June 17, 1859, Cornelius to Brother, from Camp Lee, West Point, NY (Now a Lt. and Quarter Master of the Corps. The best office in the class. De Hardin and his mother left. She will call on Mother to report concerning me.)

June 28, 1859, Cornelius to Brother, from West Point, NY

July 10, 1859, Cornelius to Father, from West Point, NY

July 21, 1859, Cornelius to Mother, from West Point, NY

August 19, 1859, Cornelius to Brother, from Springwood, Baltimore County, MD (Took steamer "Powell" for N.Y. and 6:00 o'clock train to Philadelphia. Met classmates Jones, McFarland, McCreary, Kellogg and Chamberlain. Went to see Madison Hook

and Aunt Becca. She gave her opinion that I was no Hook because my feet were too small.)

August 30, 1859, Cornelius to Mother, from West Point, NY

September 19, 1859, Cornelius to Father, from West Point, NY
(Gen. Scott left here this morning en route for the Pacific. Matters must be severe when the old General undertakes such a trip.)

October 6, 1859, Cornelius to Brother, from West Point, NY

October 15, 1859, Cornelius to Mother, from West Point, NY
(McClendan is candidate for Congress; his opponent is Palmer.)

October 23, 1859, Cornelius to Brother, from West Point, NY (News from San Juan is looked for with interest. The 20 days granted Harney expired on the day of departure of the last steamer and we are anxious to see what steps Gen. Douglas will take.)

December 4, 1859, Cornelius to Brother, from West Point, NY (Went up to Fishkill to see friends and returned to Cold Springs for Dinner. Mrs. Weitzel, wife of Lt. Weitzel, my Engineering instructor, was burned to death. They were married just two weeks ago.)

December 22, 1859, Cornelius to Brother, from West Point, NY (A most intense excitement still exists in regard to politics. Here we are very little troubled, but all around are in a fever. In the West there cannot be much of it. The Southern students are leaving the northern colleges in crowds.)

1860 (January - May; 8 letters)

January 4, 1860, Cornelius to Mother, from West Point, NY

January 22, 1860, Cornelius to Brother, from West Point, NY
(Great concert last night, gems of great composers; Bellini, Verdi, Rossini and Balfour. Also opera of William Tell.)

February 5, 1860, Cornelius to Mother, from West Point, NY (Took journey to village of Cold Springs yesterday crossing the river on a sleigh. And, after visiting the barber set about paying some calls. Took dinner at the house of Lt. Warren and afterwards took a ride in his sleigh with his sister for company. She is a pretty lively girl and good friend of mine.)

February 18, 1860, Cornelius to Brother, from West Point, NY

March 19, 1860, Cornelius to Brother, from West Point, NY (Had a couple of ulcers removed from my throat.)

April 1, 1860[?], Cornelius to Brother, from West Point, NY

May 1, 1860, Cornelius to Brother, from West Point, NY
(Convention has split. Number of southern states have "drawn out". Hear nothing anywhere but Douglas and the Cincinnati platform, Jeff Davis and the south and various other names of

presidential aspirants. Poor fools! I had rather be a cadet than an inmate in the White House.)

May 13, 1860, Cornelius to Brother, from West Point, NY

Box 2

1860 (October - December; 5 letters)

October 1, 1860, Cornelius to Mother, from Old Point Comfort, VA (Here we are at last, put to the duty which our last five years work has been preparing us for. We, that is, Randol, Pennington, Wilson and myself, arrived here about four o'clock yesterday on the steamer from Baltimore which later place we left at 5 o'clock on Saturday. I have been assigned to Captain Judges Company and go to duty in the morning.)

October 14, 1860, Cornelius to Brother, from Old Point Comfort, VA (Settled in comfortable quarters. The sloop of Richmond passed the fort yesterday on her way out. She is bound, I believe, to the coast of Africa.)

November 8, 1860, Cornelius to Brother, from Fort Monroe, VA (We have not yet received any definite news of the election, but from what we can gather Lincoln is undoubtedly elected. Around here Bell carried everything.)

December 13, 1860, Cornelius to Mother, from Fort Monroe, VA (A great talk is being made about Fort Moultrie being attacked. It is true that if attacked, it will be taken, indeed little if any resistance will be made, perhaps for Maj. Anderson has only about sixty men there and very little ammunition. Still, he will do his duty, though he must only act on the defensive. Rather an amusing incident occurred at Washington the other day. Mrs. Anderson, wife of Major Anderson and daughter of one of our old generals, called on President Buchanan and demanded that reinforcements be sent to her husband in Charleston. I have been promoted to First Lieutenant of Company A, 1st artillery.)

December 21, 1860, Cornelius to Brother, from Fort Monroe, VA (Going to Florida, to Enterprise, to get well. Also gives thoughts on succession and bloodshed to come.)

1861 (27 letters)

January 10, 1861, Cornelius to Mother, from Fort Monroe, VA

January 17, 1861, Cornelius to Mother, from Savannah, Georgia (This is a rather warlike place. On every side you may see military in some shape or other. They are making great preparations, but I doubt very much whether they get a chance to do any fighting. North Carolina has given up her forts, South Carolina is getting tired of occupying hers, and Georgia, Florida and Louisiana will be in the same fix pretty soon.)

February 3, 1861, Cornelius to Brother, from Enterprise, Florida

February 17, 1861, Cornelius to Brother, from Magnolia, "Republic of Florida" (I arrived at this place last Thursday with my two comrades, Mills & Hollenbush. We have got to a place where we have nothing but the piney woods around us and where the air is drier and softer than it was at Enterprise; still I do not like it so well.)

February 26, 1861, Cornelius to Mother, from Magnolia, "Independent Republic of Florida" (One of my companions has gone (Dr. Hollenbush) to Fort Pickens. I was sorry to lose him, first he was a pleasant companion and then was a skillful physician, much better than any we find in this country. If my health improves I may have to follow him in a month or two as my company is there. [...] If I dared to go north I should go to Washington and see the inauguration.)

March 15, 1861, Cornelius to Brother, from Magnolia, Florida (We got the news of Lincoln's inauguration, since then no mails. Both our mail boats have been taken by the Southern Confederacy for war purposes. What is up one cannot tell. Here all is quiet and we don't feel much bothered about anything. Saw the Southern flag yesterday, didn't think much of it.)

March 28, 1861, Cornelius to Mother, from Magnolia, Florida

April 18, 1861, Cornelius to Brother, from Magnolia, Florida (The bloodless battle is over at Charleston-Anderson has surrendered. The soldier still bravely upholds the honor of his flag while the administration stands by and sees the brave man as he hauls down his colors; shame! It makes my blood boil.)

May 9, 1861, Cornelius to Brother, from Burnett House, Cincinnati (At last after an infinity of trouble and vexation I have arrived in a northern city, and feel a little at my ease. [Several pages recounting his experience traveling through Savannah and Atlanta.] In Louisville I saw the stars and stripes for the first time for months and I can tell you we hailed it with joy.)

May 19, 1861, Cornelius to Mother, from Fort Monroe, VA (Three vessels of war are lying off the fort; the Cumberland, Minnesota and Perry, while the Quaker City, Harriet Lane, Star, Yankee and several small Steamers are cruising all around. Inside we have about twenty-four hundred men; two thousand volunteers and the remainder regulars.)

May 28, 1861, Cornelius to Brother, from Fort Monroe, VA (I know your characters pretty well, and know how you feel at this time; and that you are anxious to be in the field where so many of our best and bravest men are to be found. But let me say to you and Willie too. Stay at home, both of you. Mother would miss you too much, and you might, perhaps be gone forever. [...] Last Sunday I had the command of two companies

of men who, had seized their arms and enrolled themselves on the spur of the moment, but I had them rolling barrels and moving material from 5 to 11 p.m., the work of a common laborer. They grumbled and said they did not come for that, but the work had to be done, and that if it took all night. There has been no fighting since I last wrote. General Butler has taken command of this department. Yesterday 2200 men were seen to occupy Newport News, a point of land at the mouth of James River. They effected a landing without opposition and are now throwing up intrenchments [sic].)

June 3, 1861, Cornelius to Brother, from Fort Monroe, VA

June 8, 1861, Cornelius to Mother, from Fort Monroe, VA (My letters must not be given for publication. I serve the public, but will not write for the papers. Our work here is by no means easy. Gen. Butler has discovered that if anything has to be done he must get a regular officer to do it, so we are kept busy continually. We have over ten thousand men here now, but I do not think there will be any forward movement for some time yet, if at all.)

June 10, 1861, Cornelius to Mother, from Fort Monroe, VA (This has been a sad day for us. Our troops have been shamefully, disgracefully beaten. Beaten by a force not one fourth their own number. Beaten not by any want of bravery in themselves, but through the stupidity and ignorance of their commander.)

June 20, 1861, Cornelius to Brother, from Fort Monroe, VA (There has been nothing of much importance done here since the Big Bethel Affair. I rather think that the General is a little disposed to profit by the lesson he got there. We have about twelve thousand men here now and employ them in drilling, scouting and working. There was a little brush at Newport News on Sunday; four of our men were wounded. We have got a rifle cannon on the rif-rafs now which makes the Confederates "dust" from their camp about once a day. I don't think they like it very much. We do however.)

June 27, 1861, Cornelius to Mother, from Fort Monroe, VA (They call us all sorts of hard names, and the "chivalrous" (?) [sic] General has proclaimed that our War cry is "beauty and booty". The Infamous scoundrel!)

July 20, 1861, Cornelius to Brother, from Fort Monroe, VA (I have just received orders, and up a bit to Ft. Mendenhall for duty with the battery. We go into camp immediately and will go in the field in about ten days, or sooner depending, I suppose, on the movements of McDowell's column.)

August 2, 1861[?], Cornelius to Mother, from Fort Monroe, VA

August 21, 1861, Cornelius to Brother, from Camp Butler, Newport News, VA (We hear sad rumors tonight from Missouri; that Siegel and his command are prisoners. It would not have been had our own Lyon have lived.)

September 2, 1861, Cornelius to Mother, from Camp Butler, Newport News, VA

September 16, 1861, Cornelius to Mother, from Fort Hatteras, NC
(Our present location is not one of the most inviting. It is a little fort built on sand and turf, and situated on a sand-pit at the extremity of the island at what is called Hatteras Inlet.)

September 29, 1861, Cornelius to Brother, from Fort Hatteras, NC
(This morning the Susquehanna gave chase to a sloop which attempted to run in here, and finally caught her.)

October 17, 1861, Cornelius to Mother, from Fort Hatteras, NC (I am Adjutant General on the staff of the Staff of General Williams and have a great deal of writing to do.)

November 1, 1861, Cornelius to Brother, from Fort Hatteras, NC
(Col. Baker is dead. He was a great blower but no soldier. I know, for I've served with him.)

November 3, 1861, Cornelius to Brother, from Fort Hatteras, NC

November 13, 1861, Cornelius to Brother, from Head Quarters, Hatteras Inlet, NC (General Sherman has landed at Port Royal and I would like to join him. Capt. Stewart, who arrived by the last steamer, says I am to be ordered away from here, but when I shall go I don't know. General Williams says he don't think he'll let me go.)

November 28, 1861, Cornelius to Brother, from Fort Hatteras, Hatteras Inlet, NC (Among the many ridiculous things is the accounts I see in the papers of the sufferings of the inhabitants of this island, and the meetings held for their benefit. The papers speak of the "four thousand loyal, starving citizens". Four thousand there are not. I have been from Chicamocomico to Hatteras and can testify to there not being four hundred.)

1862 (15 letters)

January 28, 1862, Cornelius to Mother, from Camp Winfield, Hatteras Inlet, NC (The "Burnside Expedition" is here. They arrived at the beginning of a storm and it has stormed almost ever since. The General refuses to permit me to rejoin my company and I am to accompany him to the mainland in a few weeks. We will land, I think, at Newbern, and endeavor to cut off communication with the South while our army maneuvers above.)

February 18, 1862, Cornelius to Mother, from Head Quarters, Hatteras Inlet, NC (Steamer "Stars and Stripes" arrived yesterday and brought the news of our sweep at Fort Donelson and in Missouri. Our Brigade is ordered to Roanoke and we commence embarking tomorrow. I am so glad to get away from

Hatteras and to get where the music of the sea will not be forever ringing in my ears.)

March 11, 1862[?], Cornelius to Brother, from Fort Hatteras, NC
(The little "Monitor" has proven herself a trump. If only we had two more "Monitors"!))

March 21, 1862, Cornelius to Brother, from Fort Hatteras, NC

April 16, 1862, Cornelius to Brother, from Newbern, NC (I have been quite unwell. [...] You may look for me at home about the 1st of May. [...] I will spend the summer at St. Paul.)

May 6, 1862[?], Cornelius to Brother, from New York

May 12, 1862[?], Cornelius to Brother, from New York

May 29, 1862, Cornelius to Brother, from Cold Spring, NY (I send you a note from Miss Warren, who you know is my particular. She is very anxious that you should accept the invitation, but come anyhow, and you'll be taken of.)

June 23, 1862, William to Mother, from Cold Spring, NY (My visit has been very pleasant. Eliza Warren, and her sister Emily, and their mother have all been as kind and attentive to me as one could wish. Cornel is improving and promises me that he will start by next Monday to get home. At Undercliff Cornel has been treated as if he were one of the family, and they have done everything for him that was in their power to do.)

September 14, 1862, Cornelius to Brother, from Winchester, Mass.

September 27, 1862[?], Cornelius to Brother, from Cold Spring, NY

October 1, 1862, Cornelius to Mother, from Cold Spring, NY (Last evening, General Gov. Warren suddenly made his appearance, thereby causing his family much pleasure. He is looking very well and has gone through the campaign much better than most of our young officers. He gets his new rank "for gallant conduct at the battle of "Gaines Hill." My health is still improving and I walk with much more ease. If I continue to improve I think I shall start for the south next week. I am told that the climate of my post is delightful and that the quarters are excellent. "Eliza" sends her love.)

October 11, 1862, Cornelius to Brother, from Cold Spring, NY (We have news from the West this morning but I do not altogether like them. It looks to me as if Buell was beaten, and the victory at Corinth seems to have been dearly bought. Stuart too has made another dash at Pennsylvania. I never thought those two little d-camps, Stuart and Fitz would ever create such a sensation.)

November 5, 1862, Cornelius to Brother, from Fort Monroe, VA

November 20, 1862, Cornelius to Brother, from Fort Macon, Beaufort, NC (My court-martial is over, but I have not heard the decision. I have no fears about it however. A man

dismissed from service would hardly be placed in command of this fort. [...] I command a queer medley. Among the rest I have twenty-five prisoners of different grades, confined for different crimes. A number wear the ball and chain to the ankle. [...] There is one officer a prisoner, who goes stalking about the fort looking like a ghost, with his long great military cloak thrown over his shoulder in tragic style.)

1863 (10 letters)

February 7, 1863, Cornelius to Brother, from On board Steamer "S.R. Spaulding" Port Royal Harbor, SC (Tomorrow we are to be transferred to the schooner "Recruit" and we will probably spend two to three weeks in her dismal cabins. Port Royal, so far as I have seen it, is a miserable hole. Almost as bleak and dreary as Hatteras.)

February 28, 1863, Cornelius to Brother, from Key West, Florida

June 12, 1863, Cornelius to Brother, from Key West, Florida

August 2, 1863, Cornelius to Brother, from Key West, Florida (Returning from an inspection tour to Fortryas week before last we were caught in a storm at sea. Our little tug-boat wallowed terribly and we tumbled inside loose. I am going to Pensacola this week if I can get any good clothes. I am in hopes that one more big battle will finish the greater part of the war. Charleston will go under and I see that my guns and my men are in the work. Then comes Savannah's turn and then Wilmington if N.C. holds out so long Mobile will kill itself soon. Florida is not worth having and with no hold but S.C. and Ga. The rebels cannot struggle much longer.)

August 10, 1863, Cornelius to Brother, from Key West, Florida

September 16, 1863, Cornelius to Brother, from Key West, Florida

October 31, 1863[?], Cornelius to Brother, from "Undercliffe" [Cold Spring, NY] (I am to be married in about three weeks, to Eliza, and I want you to be present at the ceremony and to assist. Dont [sic] refuse, nor dont [sic] let Ayers & Co detain you at the bank. They can surely spare for that time, and I need you.)

November 23, 1863, Cornelius to Brother, from "Metropolitan" New York (On this last day of my bachelor life I send you a letter. [...] I am to be married tomorrow at 12. [...] I go up this evening a bachelor and return tomorrow a "benedict". I am ordered to Key West and expect to go Wednesday, but I have to await the Secretary's permission to take my wife.)

November 25, 1863, Cornelius to Mother, from "Metropolitan" New York (My bachelor days are over and I am here again in the city with my wife. [...] We were married yesterday at noon. [...] I do not like to promise too much but I will promise to

try and make all her life happy- and try to make up to her for all she has given up for my sake.)

November 1863, Wedding invitation or announcement to Mr. and Mrs. Cornelius Hook, from Cold Spring, NY

1864 (9 letters)

February 6, 1864, Cornelius to Mother, from Key West, Florida
(Tonight we start for Havana, a party of four ladies and three gentlemen, where we shall see the Carnival. I do not wish to go just now but Eliza is very desirous of doing so and so good an opportunity may not occur again.)

February 28, 1864, Eliza to Mother, from Key West, Florida

March 10, 1864, Cornelius to Brother, from Key West, Florida
(Just now there is a great deal of activity here. Some half dozen large steamers are in all the time, coaling rapidly and putting off in a hurry. Farragut is said to be already engaged at Mobile, and we may suppose that a part of Bank's force is there too.)

May 28, 1864, Cornelius to Brother, from Head Quarters, Key West, Florida

July 12, 1864, Eliza to Mother, from Cold Spring, NY (Account of Cornelius's fever and death.)

August 1, 1864, Eliza to Mother, from Cold Spring, NY

August 1864, Funeral Notice for Cornelius Hook

September 12, 1864, Eliza to Will, from Cold Spring, NY

October 24, 1864, Eliza to Mother, from Cold Spring, NY

1865 (2 letters)

January 31, 1865, Eliza to Mother, from Cold Spring, NY

September 10, 1865, William to Tom, from Jacksonville, Illinois

Undated (6 letters, 2 fragments)

Monday morning, Cornelius to Mother, from West Point, NY

March 31, Cornelius to Brother, from West Point, NY

August 30, Cornelius to Brother, from West Point, NY

October 6, Cornelius to Brother, from West Point, NY

November 2, Cornelius to Brother, from West Point, NY

December 20, Cornelius to Brother, from West Point, NY

Fragment, 1855[?], Cornelius to [Brother or Mother], from [West Point, NY] ("Since I wrote the first part of the letter I see how it is that pa thinks I have got 36 instead of 18 you see that each monthly report states how many demerit I've had for that month and how much for the year [...]")

Fragment, undated, Cornelius to [Father], from [West Point, NY]
(" (the cadet) did not know what to do for striking any officer
is a serious offence but the commander said that it was all
right. [...]")

Miscellaneous

Sketch and clipping, undated