**Civil War Vocabulary for the Boodey and Waterman Letters**

**Artillery-** branch of the Army specialized in using Cannon

**Ballot Box-** reference to deciding things in an election

**Barracks** - housing provided for soldiers, usually specific to a given unit.

**Bayonet**- blade attached to the end of a rifle or musket for use in hand-to-hand combat or to control civil unrest

**Border States**- states along the Mason Dixon Line and Ohio River- particularly the slave states of Missouri, Kentucky, West Virginia, Maryland, and Delaware which remained with the Union

**Boston Boys**- Soldiers from Boston Township including Peninsula, Ohio

**Bounty**- bonus payment offered in addition to pay to soldiers who enlisted. Offered by local, state, and federal governments.

**Butternuts**- derogatory slang term used to name a Southerner or sympathizer- reference to the color of Confederate uniforms.

**Cavalry**- branch of the Army that rode on horses to move quickly into battle or on scouting patrols

**Conscription**- the military draft

**Copperheads**- derogatory slang term used to refer to Peace Democrats who spoke out against the Union war effort. Synonymous with “traitor”.

**Desertion**- to leave one’s military unit without permission or orders

**Dixie** – the South

**Elephant** (“see the elephant”)- to experience combat

**Enlist**- to join the military, to sign up

**Ennui**- boredom

**Furlough**- a travel pass for a specific time allowing soldiers to go home to attend to family or work business

**Infantry**- branch of the Army that moved and fought on foot.

**Martial Law**- used in times of civil unrest when the military takes over law enforcement from civil authorities

**Parole, Paroled, Parolee**- in Civil War context, when a Prisoner of War is freed to return home- usually as a result of exchange on condition that they are never to take up arms again.

**Provisions**- supplies

**Secesh-** a slang term referring to Confederate soldiers and others supporting the Southern cause for independence.

**Shrapnel**- deadly shards of metal thrown by exploding cannon and mortar shells

**Skirmishers**- troops deployed to the front or sides of a unit during battle to provide early warning of enemy attack

**Substitute Clause**- In the Union Draft, those with enough money who were drafted could get out of military service by paying someone to take their place.

**Military Ranks and Units**

**Private, Private First Class**- Lowest ranks, basic soldier

**Corporal**- First leadership position- in charge of 2-5 soldiers

**Sergeant-** Non-commissioned leadership position- in charge of a squad, or in partnership with an officer, of a platoon or larger unit

**Lieutenant**- Commissioned leadership position- lowest officer rank- in charge of a platoon

**First Lieutenant**- 2nd officer rank- usually executive officer in a company

**Captain**- 3rd officer rank- in charge of a company

**Major**- 4th officer rank- in charge of a battalion

**Lieutenant Colonel/ Colonel**- 5th and 6th officer ranks- in charge of a regiment

**Squad**- Basic unit of about 10 soldiers

**Platoon**- About 30 soldiers including 3-4 squads

**Company**- At least 100 soldiers including 3-4 platoons

**Battalion**- At least 300 soldiers including 3 or more companies

**Regiment**- At least 900 soldiers including 3 or more battalions

**Military and Political Figures named in the letters**

**Abe, Old Abe, Father Abraham**- Abraham Lincoln, president of the United States

**Buell**- Commander of the Union Army of the Ohio in 1862

**Burnside**- Commander of the Army of the Potomac from Antietam to Fredricksburg, reassigned to command the Department of Ohio in 1863 and in charge of Vallandigham’s arrest.

**Jeff Davis**- president of the Confederate States of America

**Douglas**- Stephen Douglas- U.S. Senator from Illinois, and Northern Democratic candidate for president in 1860.

**Little Mac**- George McClellan, Union Commander at the beginning of the War until removed by Lincoln. Democratic candidate for President in 1864

**Clement Vallandigham** – Former Ohio Congressman, outspoken opponent of Lincoln and the Civil War- arrested and exiled to the South for treason in 1863, ran for Ohio Governor in 1863 from exile.

**Grant**- Commander of Union Forces in the West with a reputation for being a fighter. Promoted to Overall Union Commander in 1864

**Stanton**- Secretary of War under president Lincoln