

Head Quarters, Department of the East,

New York City, February 15<sup>th</sup> 1864

General Nelson J. Waterbury  
Judge Advocate General  
State of New York.

My dear Judge: I desire to call the attention of your Honor by name through you to the case of a young gentleman who desires a commission as 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieut of Artillery (1<sup>st</sup>) or Infantry (2<sup>nd</sup>) in the New York Volunteers. His name is Walter Collins, 10 years of age, formerly of Hamilton College Clinton, N. Y., and more recently of the Military School at Poughkeepsie where he was instructed (amongst other matters) in the Artillery drill. He is of excellent family and some wealth, his father having been one of the most eminent lawyers of Illinois though originally of Vernon, N. Y., where your Honor may possibly have known him. Young Collins is well known to me, - a clear headed, strong bodied, brave young gentleman, who would make an excellent Officer: it is as such, and from sincere

respect for his family that I recommend  
him. There are few youths of his age  
more likely in my judgment to make  
creditable officers. - If you think any thing  
can be done, please endorse this letter  
and forward it to the Governor for such  
action as he may think fit. Believe  
me I am much interested in the case.

Yours very faithfully  
Your friend  
Chas. Knapine  
Major General

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