

# Wallace Alcorn

BRISBANE

23 March 2005

The Rev. Dr. Robert E.H. Peeples  
8 Moonshell Road  
Hilton Head Island, S.C. 29928

Dear Robert,

It has been much too long, of course, since I last wrote. Yet, I have thought of you and Miss Cora often during the absence of a letter. I pray you are both in reasonably and/or relatively (necessary adverbs, are they not?) good health.

My study just now is on Ukraine and Russia, because we will be leaving for there in a few weeks.

I keep getting distracted from the Brisbane Project, because I need to do it in spurts from long distances from the sites where data are found. I wait for replies and while waiting, other matters intervene. I have recently made contact with a descendant of Benj Lawton Brisbane who now lives in California but will move to Colorado. She doesn't want to go into boxes until she has completed her move. My information is that she has a diary from WHB, Jr.

I have been working on the 1874 Reunion of the Abolitionists Old Guard in Chicago, largely from contemporary news coverage in the Chicago Tribune. I found work in the Chicago Historical Society to be inefficient and wrote to the state for microfilms. I have also worked on WHB's cadet days in Norwich, Vermont. Norwich University, which is succeeded the military academy, had several people in Chicago last fall for a symposium of military writers in which I participated. I interviewed its president and a history professor. Happily, the Pritzker Military Library has been established in Chicago, and I was able to read all the material for which I would have otherwise needed to journey to Vermont. I find WHB was an actual roommate of Swinton Ball, who with his brothers is featured in Edward Ball's *Slaves in the Family*. He also roomed across the hall from Gideon Welles, who became Lincoln's navy secretary.

I also had a conference at the University of Wisconsin with a professor of medical history who wrote an article on WHB's

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Wisconsin medical practice. She has directed me to additional material on private practice of the period, of which there isn't very much. She is eager for me to write more.

I keep trying to get back to South Carolina. A planned trip last year became abandoned when the opportunity to go to Italy emerged. In the mean time, I'll try to stay in touch.

Wallace