

## The Sidney Stockbridge Letters By Becky Sawyer

Over the course of the past two years, with the assistance of Rick Morrison, we have been transcribing the letters belonging to Sidney Stockbridge who served in the Paymaster's Office on the *USS Pawtuxet*. These letters are on loan to us from Mr. Joe Stockbridge of Surry, Maine. According to Mr. Stockbridge, he had a set of letters written by his great-uncle Sidney Stockbridge. Sidney was not on the *Pawtuxet* during the first battle but is transferred to the vessel in late December when she comes back for repairs in Hampton Roads

Within this collection was a letter from the battle that contained a sketch of the fort and souvenir of Colonel Lamb's signature. Much to our delight, he graciously sent us the original for viewing. The letter, dated January 16-18, 1865, contained valuable information about the torpedoes at Battery Buchanan, the sketch of the fort from on deck of the *USS Pawtuxet* and from inside the fort, gruesome post battle descriptions of the fort and the apparent capture of Colonel Lamb's dog. Other letters describe the US Navy's push up the Cape Fear River to capture Fort Anderson and Wilmington. Then the *Pawtuxet* is sent up to the James River and the push to capture Richmond.

