Letter to Leroy S. Edwards from W. T. Davis, April 25, 1861

The author of this letter, W. T. Davis, was Williams Thomas Davis, Professor of Latin and Mathematics at Petersburg Female College, where Leroy was Professor of Chemistry and Natural Philosophy from 1860-1861. W.T. Davis left the school in 1862 and founded Southern Female College in Petersburg.

Williams Thomas Davis was the father of William Hoomes Davis, the William referred to in this letter, who enlisted as a private in the 12th VA Infantry Co. E on the same day as Leroy, April 19, 1861. William Hoomes Davis was a schoolmate of Leroy’s and graduated from Randolph-Macon College in the same year, 1859. William Hoomes Davis died of a fever in a field hospital at Chancellorsville, VA on May 7, 1863 shortly after being promoted from corporal to sergeant on April 1, 1863. Leroy Edwards’ promotions follow those of his friend; he was promoted that same day to corporal, and less than a month after William Hoomes Davis’ death, he was promoted to sergeant on June 1, 1863, the rank he would hold through the end of the war.

Another son of Williams Thomas Davis, Richard Beale Davis, attended Randolph-Macon College from 1860-1861 and enlisted in the same unit, 12th VA Co. E, on April 2, 1862, serving until the end of the war.