

Hampstead Aug. 16th /63

Dear Husband,

I received a letter from you last night rather unexpectedly, as it has been but a week since I rec^d one from you and I haven't had them oftener than once a fortnight since you left Beufort

I was at the [choir*] meeting when it was handed to me and I couldn't wait to get home but had to peep in I was so anxious to hear about Joseph. I hope he will come home. I think he ought to be allowed to.

The draft, that you have been wishing for, has come of in this State and brother Lewis is drafted

And I suppose they will get three hundred dollars out of the poor fellow if he is able to raise that sum, and I hope he will be for it wo^{uld} kill Ruth if he had to go. Her health is very poor and with those three little children, only think what a situation she ~~will~~ would be left in, And in all probability there are thousands left worse off than she would be.

Most all that went in the fifteenth reg^t from here have come home half dead. One from Atkinson and one from Hampstead died on their way home

Mr [Cursier*] came home so altered that some of his friends didn't know him. Mr. Hutchins & [Oser] Nichols were crazy when they first came home Nat Frost was very sick and Moses Griffin is but just alive. The fiftieth Mass reg^t fared well enough, ^{on} their way home till they got most to Mass. and then they didn't have anything to eat for more than twenty four hours. James Hall is drafted to go again, and almost every body else in Hampstead. Jason Noyes and Mr. Pratt (Oh how I should like to see that little inferior abolition dog put into the front ranks with a gun and knap-sack like the poorest soldier that ever went into battle. and how I should like to see him carry a load such as many other poor soldiers have had to carry Yes, I should like to see him obliged to carry it till he dropped down under its weight) and Adin Little and Frank Sawyer, Job Tabor and Charles Randle and most everybody else

I will get a paper that has their names, if I can and send you

I can say one thing for Lewis he has never said that he was not an able bodied man, but you will hardly find a well man in H.

One has a sore toe another is troubled with the sick head-ache and all at once Job Tabor has discovered that he is troubled with bad spells and a lame knee.

But enough of this, I am sick of the thought of it. I shouldn't have told you about Lewis if I hadn't supposed you would see his name with the rest, for I hated the thoughts of your rejoicing over it which I am afraid you will.

I read one of Elmar's letters to Julia a while ago, and I should judge the poor fellow had fared rather hard

He writes as though they were very strict in his reg^t and I should judge they had none of the priveledges which you seem to have. He says if he lives till next fourth of July it will be the happiest one he ever knew for the next day his time will be out. He...

[fragment letter ends here]