

Burkettsville Nov 8th 1862

Dear Mother

I recieved your long looked for kind and welcome letter this afternoon and with what Joy did I read those cheering words therein containd but I expected to hear the you were moved before this yesterday it snowed here (right smart as the sesesh says) but as I would call it. It snowed like sflit the first snow we have seen in Maryland you wished to know that I ment from H to E well I will tell you when we first came hear their was 14 diferent hospitals in this place evry old hut was used for one and as you must know their had to be some registration and so all the hospitals were lettered from A to O in the first place I was in G then H their I was taken sick and then I was taken to E wheir I now am but I am as well now as ever and ready for duty any time I am called up an today I weighed myself and I weighed 133 lbs by that I have gained since I left home just 11 lbs that is not so bad do you think it is yesterday I reported for duty but the clerk told me that he had nothing for me to do and told me to stay on the sick list till I got perfectly tough and hearty.

Mother I have no doubt but you think think of me but above all things do not worry yourself about me for that will kill you and if I ever return home I want above all things to find my mother their without her it would never seem like home and I shall try to take good care of myself to the best of my ability I have not felt so bad no time cinse I enlisted as I did when I heard that Jonathan was going to leave you I never once drempt of your giving your consent to his going into the army then for the first time I felt as if I had aught to be at home it must look dreadful lonesome about home without the first child to speak to but you must try and keep up good courage and live in hopes of meeting us all some day and the sooner the better for me. Last Tuesday I received a letter from Jonathan and to night Allen got one from him and one from Henry they say that they are in good health and like it first rate and I am glad they do dont write anything discouraging to them to make them homesick for that is just what killed Helen Pearsons it is the worst desease a soldier can have you wished me write what I thought about the war now that is the hardest subject I have to write about but this much I do know that if their is not some kind of a settlement this winter that those that are left of us will have a hard time of it next summer. I should think that William Sisums folks must be pretty near sewed up by this time If Almira sews as fast as she used to. Mory writes about her being almost crazy now now don't never let such thoughts enter your mind nor let her talk affect you for if you begin to mourn after your boys you life will not be a very happy one just look at the best side of the house and when gloomy thoughts enter your mind bannish them at once that is the way that I do and that is the only way to keep in good spirits but mother above all things live in peace with Almira dont for the love of your sons have any hardness nor harsh words between you for I think if Allen and I had to stay together five years as we are away from home that neather of us would utter one cross word to the other I never could appreciate what company a brother was until I left home I wished Jonathan was with us. I am glad you have things about streghtened up and I hope you are satisfied with what you have done I think that Capt Noi Hanson had aught to have paid the taxes yet and it would have been about fair but if your are satisfide I be. I must close my letters by saying keep up good courage above all things els and I remain your faithful and affectionate son John

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Burkettsville Sunday Nov. 9th 1862

Dear Mother, John has left a page for me to write a few lines on, I read your letter & was glad to hear you are about ready to move down with Almira, I hope you will have good luck & good health & enjoy yourselves together while your sons are fighting for their country & the stars & stripes I had much rather Jonithan had staid with you than enlisted, but he writes that he things he can stand the hardships of a soldier, but he has seen but little of soldiering yet, & I hope he never will, but god only knows, if this war is not settled before spring we will also see plenty of hardship before next fall, but I have strong hopes that McClelan will try to crush the Viper this Winter But be that as it may we shall try to do our duty to god & our country & hope to return safely to our homes, But in the fortunes of war many lose their lives some by bullets, but more by sickness & exposure & neglect of the laws of nature, my health has been very good, I have had 2 slight turns of Ague & Fever, one lasted over 2 weeks, the other only 3 or 4 days, that is because our climate & this is different, my health I hope will continue good & I hope you & Almira & Elmer will enjoy yourselves & try to do the best you can but I must close this by wishing you good health long life and the society of your three sons in your old age accpet this from your Affectionate son Allen