

Transcript of Letters from J.S. Lemont to Frank L. Lemont (undated) 1862

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Author: J.S. Lemont

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[First Letter]:

[Bean's Handwriting: probably May or June of 1862]
(undated)

My Dear Son

it is sometime since I wrote to you, the reason why, is not because I have forgotten you, No far from that, you would not think so if you knew the anxiety I feel for you day and night, after all is still, then I lay awake and picture your situation perhaps worse than it is I can see you in my imagination in some dreadful places I can almost hear the wounded crying for help, now your Father is gone it is much more lonesome but I suppose we must make the best of it now we have got into it but I hope and sincerely desire that this dreadful war may be over soon how I long for the time to come when our friends will return to us again I hope as true and honest as when they went away

I am all alone now no one to do a chore of anything to the barn I should get along nicely if I was only strong enough to bear it, but it comes rather hard having such a weak stomach we have had one of the best fellows you ever saw for the last five weeks it was Edwin Taylor a brother to the one you enlisted he is going to work for Oyni Merrill this summer

what kind of a tumbler did you eat your hard bread and coffee out of how we pitied you when we read how you fared I think it is too bad

hardly a meal passes without some of us speaking about you and wishing you was here to enjoy it with us, almost a year since you enlisted to go from us

I could not think then it would be so long that you would have to stay away from us, but how little we know of the future, remember Lindley my attachment for you was always very strong had it not been I should not have cautioned you so frequently to keep aloof from everything that would have tendency to lead you from the paths of truth and right, I know very well what I want you to be, but I fail in the capacity to teach you and I trust my feeble efforts have not been in vain Edwin Goss wrote home that you was the best fellow he ever saw he said he found things better than you represented, what greater reward can I ask for than to be the Mother of an honest and truthful Son it is all I ask I should like to go with this letter I think sometimes if I had wings I should be with you

Josie has been quite sick she has got round the house but gets along rather slow had a kind of a slow Billious fever Grandpas Sawyers family are well Grandmother (wants) me to tell you in every letter that she thinks of you and prays for you is Cyrenius well his Father inquires of us every time he has a chance write often what should we do -if we could not hear from you

good bye Lindley
accept much love
from your Mother

Lieut, L, F Lemont

[Second Letter]:

(Undated letter - June - 1862)

My Dear Son

Achsah and I received each of us a letter from you day before yesterday
friday what a privilege it is that we can communicate on paper with each
other, I cannot express to you how glad we are to get a letter from you, but
I suppose you know by experience I doubt not you feel the same, only think
this has been in Mothers hands would we not shake hands hearty (and we could
friendly to) if we could see each other I am lonesome this summer it seems
so different having you and Father both away my courage is pretty good when
I am well, Oh Lindley you know my unceasing anxiety for you to be a good man and
a dutiful son, you say you cannot suplicate for our heavenly Fathers blessings
in faith you ask the best you can/he has promised to have those who come to him
sincerely believing that he is able to do all that he has promised I have prayed
for you but I feel that I lack faith, you are constantly in my thoughts and
you may judge for yourself whether we want to see you I asked your Father
last night how fur he would walk to see you he said as lame as he is he would
walk five miles and as much further as his legs would carry him but he guessed
that he should go quicker than that that he should put David over the road that is
the name of the horse we have got a horse that we love he is so kind and
clever and yet spirited I feel anxious to know how things move after Richmond
is taken I hope we shall be victorious I never read so much in my life I
have an interest in the Army my all is there that is my only son on whom
perhaps if he is spared and I live will bear me gently down the declivity of life,
I shall always try in my erring way to do all I can to make myself worthy of my
childrens love and esteem,

If you are wounded cant you come home,/ Gen, Howard and his brother came
to Lewiston Friday do come if you should get hurt your Father saw them
he said it was a sad sight how sad to lose a limb but I want you to come home
if you are maimed for life Mr Whittums folks feel better about their Son
they saw your letter things remain here the same as usual nothing new your
birthday next Thursday is it possible you are so old oh, Lindley if you can
come home with a clear conscience that you have tried to do right how much
comfort you will take and how much we shall all take, a number of wounded
soldiers went through Lewiston yesterday they are coming most every day Virgil
Dillingham is at home on a furloweh he says he has been sick I heard by him
from you when you was at Warrnton he said you was a noble looking fellow fat
and hard we are all well likewise Grandfathers L folks are well

I give my best respects to Capt Daggett Cyrenius and Edwin write if any
of them are in trouble how I pity them but have good courage there are better
days coming I beg of you write often

Your Affectionate
Mother J. S. Lemont

Lindley

[Hand written note on the letters by Paul W. Bean]:

These letters are out of sequence.

One is

about one year after FLL enlisted – perhaps May or June of 1862
~~one may be late summer of '62 or summer of '63~~
one probably June or July of '62 (when did Gen
Howard arrive in Lewiston? Between June 3&10, 1862