

Transcript of Letter from Frank L. Lemont to J.S. Lemont, November 30, 1862

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Camp of the 5th Maine, Regt.  
near Stafford Court House, Va.  
November 30th, 1862

My Dear Mother;

It has now been ten days since I last wrote you and I think I ought not to delay longer in writing.

I have not received answers as yet to my last letters but notwithstanding that I feel that I ought to improve every opportunity to relieve your anxiety. I am well and I think I never was so fleshy before though I am not fully recovered from my injuries.

You are now at Lewiston, and I hope pleasantly and comfortably situated. How did you spend Thanks giving day? I cannot tell you how much I longed to be at home on that day. What did you have for dinner on that day? We had hard Bread and Coffee. Could,nt get any thing else. But we eat it without a murmer thinking not of the dinner but of home, and loved ones, even then gathering around their well spread tables.

But I doubt not, the humblest one among us was remembered that day. and none but some one,s heart went out in sympathy for. With us the day passed as every other day passes unless I except a freer use of Whiskey than is usual among us. Not a few unbridled their fierce desires and drank to intoxication. We are now occupying the same ground as when I last wrote you and nothing of importance has transpired since that time except that the enemy are fortifying around Fredericksburg while we are preparing to advance and attack them as soon as all things are ready. It is said that they have massed an army of 130,000 men directly in our front determined to dispute our advance. The battle for the possession of Richmond may be fought at or near this point and that before many days. Great principles are now at stake and the safety of the country depends upon the success of the campaign. From this you can judge something of the character of the new battle. But do not be uneasy dear Mother about me .

So far as I am concerned I think all will be well. I have lately received a letter from Aunt Josephine and one from Augusta Daggett. I like to have letters from my friends. They always cheer me up and they often touch the dormant springs of my nature.

Last Wed. I visited the camp of the 16th Maine Regt stationed 5 miles in advance of us. Took dinner with Capt Hutchins. He appeared very glad to see me and asked after you & the girls. His health is poor and I think he will soon resign his commission. Saw some of the boys from Greene. Jabeg Parker, William Mower, L. Patten, Holman Briggs, and some others. Found them all well. George Hussey died very suddenly beside a haystack, so I was told. How sad

the the thought of such a death. Dear Mother I am not unmindful of the deep interest you feel for me, and the anxiety my absence occasions you. I would that it were otherwise, But I am glad to know that you blame me not for leaving you. My mind is exercised almost constantly concerning our little family, thinking of the past and the present & laying plans for the future. I cant tell you my dearest Mother how much I long to become an honorable & worthy man. You know of my aspirations. Will they ever be ratified? Who can I confide

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these things to so well as to you, the sharer of all my joys & sorrows. How I long to lay bare my whole heart before you and once more feel the soothing influence of your sympathy.

Do I talk childish? Perhaps (if) my comrades could see this (they) would laugh at its simplicity. But I care not for them. Your approval is what I seek.

If I cannot confide all my heart yearnings to you, and feel that I have your Sympathy then I have no one in whom I can confide. I know that your life is wrapped in mine & mine in yours. I have all confidence in my best friend. Do you have such confidence in me? I am afraid I caused your confidence to tremble by doing as I did while at home. I am very pleasantly situated and I am not afraid of my reputation in the regiment. I am the youngest Officer in our Regt. At regimental inspection this morn. I recd. a warm compliment from the Col. for the good appearance of the men & the manner in which they went through the inspection. Tonight at dress parade I acted as Adjutant of the regiment. Remember, this is intended only for your eyes.

I hope soon to hear from you again. I think a great deal about Father, and Oh! how much I miss those kind letters he used to write me. But I must close for the twilight deepens. Will you not write very often all of you? I hope this will find you all as well as it leaves me. Give my love to the girls, and believe me ever

Your Affec Son.

Frank L. Lemont

Mrs. J. S. Lemont.