

Transcript of Letter from Hiram S. Davis and Hannah Davis to Lieutenant J. L. Ham, April 16,  
1880

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Box Number: 279

Folio: f.62

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Farmington Me. Apr. 16, 1880

Lieut. J. L. Ham

Dear Sir,

In our last Lewiston Journal of Apr. 8<sup>th</sup> we read your very interesting account of life in A rebel prison at Salisbury N. C. and I for one wish that it had been 2 or 3 columns longer we also read the other account a few weeks before of Andersonville I shall send and get the book of McElroy that he wrote ~~while~~ about what he saw in rebel prisons.

I and my Brother William were in the 12<sup>th</sup> Me. at the Battle of cedar creek he was taken prisoner Oct 19<sup>th</sup> 1864 and carried to Salisbury where he died Jan. 20<sup>th</sup> 1865 after being

there through the 3 worst months as you said did you know my Brother William . Davis or Timothy Stearns or Moses Cross they were all three there if my brother had lived one more month he would have been exchanged as I see by your account do you think there was one Soldier in that prison that died that was buried separately and had their grave marked in the way that we buried and marked our Soldiers graves or was every one that died dumped into a ditch like so many dogs and covered up. I should like to take a trip off there sometime and look around, other wanted me to ask you to write to us and tell us if you knew william he was 20. There was 4 of us in the Army 3 died and I was the

only one that got out of it I think I could have stood them a pull if I had been there for I was always well and hearty as a bear but my brother was not very tough I heard a man in our Reg't say that was there and lived to be exchanged and join the Reg't again that William was one of the leading ones at the time that you undertook to break out We want to hear some more about Rebel prisons from you or McElroy through the Lewiston Journal. If at any time you come this way give us a call we would be glad to see you and have a long talk with you. Please write to me and when you come to Farmington come and see us we live 4 miles from the village.

Respectfully Yours

Hiram S. Davis

Farmington //16 1880

Respected friend I saw in <sup>the</sup> Journal that you was in the same Rebel Prison that my Son <sup>was</sup> I want to know if you know him/ he was slender he was my youngest Son/ he <sup>was</sup> not 17/ his Father died the year before/ William was a drummer when he was taken/ my <sup>sons</sup> had been gone four years/ it <sup>is</sup> hard to think of one of our Children starving to death/ I am thankful that I have one left that I now live with/ he has a Wife and one Child we live on Cowan hill/ if you should ever come to Farmington we would like to see you/ Stearns said he laid one side of my Son and Parker the other side of him the night he died/ they did not know what time/ they had no fire or light/ he was dead when they awoke/ poor boy he could not eat such course stuff / he was a good boy/ I miss him/ Parker never got home after he was exchanged/ I dont think <sup>the</sup> rebels can prosper for being so cruel

to our men/ did they have any Doctors in Prison/ from your friend  
Hannah Davis