

Transcript of Letter from Asaph Boyden to Almore Haskell, January 25, 1862

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West's Mills 25 Jan'y 1862

Friend Haskell

Your verry kind and obliging letter of the 16th inst came safe to hand & you may depend I carfully perused its contents, for which be pleased to accept my best & warmest thanks. You seem to be somewhat cast down & dejected in view of the loss of your only brother. I think it not strange that you thus feel. I can sympathize in a degree with you, but not as I could had I been thus afflicted. Thus we see the uncertainty of coming in, when we go out. Perhaps you & myself may profit by that sudden death. The bed he last slept in was the one you occupied up stairs, was made up the day he left & has not been slept in since. My wife often speaks of it.

You seem to be yet in Camp at Augusta, & well except a bad cold which I should think would be common in the regiments encamped there. I presume you are not quite as comfortable as a whole this cold winter as you would be before my stove well heated with Poplar wood dry, but if you cook you must have fire.

Albert Shaw told me that the man, in Skowhegan, that contractor for oats for your regiment told him he had orders to stop buying as they are to be discharged, that was a week since.

I saw in the last Farmer that the Secretary of war sent to Gov. Washburn to know how many troops could be sent to the seat of war immediately from Maine. He answered by saying 5 Batteries one regiment Cavalry & the Infantry. I have forgotten the number. I dont know what to believe there is so many different stories about you leaving. When you go or are discharged we in this back country will soon find it out. If you are discharged, if possible, you will of course come here and make a visit ever so long and we will talk all about it.

I saw Adalaide a short time since. She enquired if I had heard from Hiram Stevens. I told her no, but I had just reed a letter from Mr. Haskell. She shewed all manner of colours in the face & the subject passed off as we were in the store at the time and people arround.

The young people are having a good time once a week meeting in the capacity of a circle & finally all go. Old as well as young. I wish you were with us. You might enjoy yourself perhaps.

Jeb Emery just come into this city & I hear he says you & himself will be discharged as soon as you are paid. If that is so, will you (just drop in & see your friends at this place. You have many good friends here, that is so. Division is as you left it doing a little.

I may have told you about my 2 boys, but I dent recollect. If I have I will tell you again. William went to Boston as you recollect, staid there 4 or 5 weeks, laboured for the same man, then hired out to Government for \$25 a month to go to Washington and drive a 4 horse Ambulance. Wyatt is opposite Aquay Creek on the M.D. side of the Potomac in Gen Hookers Division, he is First Lieutennant of Goodwins Rifles pay \$110 pr month & rations.

Now what shall (I) say more. John Wiles is in the woods Dead River. I think the girls or some of them would like to lock jaws with the Patterson Boys. When you come & go to the Circle & you will see & know all things. Mell Wiles is I think in earnest after Ann Bruce. What is to become of Hellen time must tell I cant. All good girls.

When you come I will tell you all about a time we have had with that miserable Greenleaf. Now I am out of what I am always out of, common sense & must close after saying we as a whole are enjoying good health, & hope this will find you so.

The wind blows & snow flies properly. In the first place Mrs. B. sends to you her best regards & then Octavia & Warren Gid & all the children & everybody else would if they could have an opportunity. I will now close while I remain your friend as ever

Asaph Boyden