

Haines Bluff Miss  
March 5-1874

Dearest Mother,

I have received within a few days your dear kind letters from you three of them from Newport - all letters now come regularly - those which were directed "Goodrich's Landing" being somewhat delayed - but I believe I have received them all. I wrote you two days ago, but I have not much to do tonight and I may have time on a mail tomorrow, so I will answer the last letters. If possible, I intend to go to Bucksburgh on Monday and endeavor to find out something about Mr. Blackwells friend. But with the data furnished I fear it is a hopeless task. The letter sent by Miss Moore was mailed by him at Bucksburgh & reached here at the same time with one of later

date. I have not seen him, but may  
perhaps at Rockbridge. My last letter will  
have reassured you as to my health - which  
is excellent. I have stopped the quinine  
for the present, and shall not resume  
it unless threatened with chills.

Do not think dear mother that my duties  
are burdensome to me. On the contrary I  
find them exceedingly. The care of my  
men gives me real pleasure, and is  
not at all antagonistic to my tastes as  
you say. And when one becomes  
and in the incidents incident to it, I  
always feel elated and like a different  
man. His leisure hours are those I  
desire. I do not trouble myself much  
about the officers - some of them are  
really fine fellows although rough and  
uneducated. The others are nothing to me  
and do not interfere with me. I would  
rather associate with the former than with

many New York politicians and  
conceited literary folks and artists.  
They have been through battles and privations,  
wounds and suffering, and although they  
are not reprieved, are true hearted and  
brave. I like nothing you better than  
affection. So dear Mollie do not be  
troubled about my work. It sinks me  
and is doing me good. It is the lassine  
hours which are full of tears and sorrow—  
and longing: but they would be so all the time  
at home, and there would be more of  
them. Do not think I have lost my fondness  
for my home and all the dear hearts  
who are there. But in my state of  
mind those kindly softer influences do  
not strengthen; my life must be silent  
and hard for a time, that it may  
grow self-sustaining and recover somewhat  
its tone.

For books, I have my military works, which

interest - see exceedingly; and I devote  
as much time as possible to them. I do  
not need any others now. But periodicals  
newspaper magazines I should study  
receive. Send everything by mail or standards  
express, directed "Richardsburg". They will  
all reach me in time wherever they  
may be.

I will close for tonight, as it is damp &  
dull in my tent, & my fire won't burn  
somewhat tomorrow after inspection and  
a small peach being seen I will assume  
this. 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Lent -

The inspection and the peach are over.  
My tent was the article of war which  
publicly sneered. I wish you could  
have seen how clean my moccasins, how  
clean boots, pack, and gun above.

Now that I have made clean-boots  
use of them, I am proceeding to make  
clean-bootlinings if possible.

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My private church begins after inspection  
about 11 A.M. and I spend my time with  
my bible and prayer book, and my sweet  
picture of my sainted wife. My sermon is  
from the Memoriam, and then an hour of  
duty - the part and effort have  
rought me into the future.

During quiet moments we almost - the  
only ones I have. The rest of the time is full  
of communion and work.

I am glad to hear from home. Start Keay  
has passed the考试 well. I hope Keay  
will remain home long enough to see his  
home finished and his wife fairly settled  
in it. Lath is doing nobly at Newport, or  
I knew he would. If all your militant  
dogs survive this war, will you not be  
glad, and glad they leave added in  
by great work. I think it will all be  
over by next Christmas. The new war in  
Europe between Denmark & Prussia will probably

foreign intervention, and without that the

Rebellion went to down. It is fairly going  
in that direction now.

I hope you will induce Schuyler to finish  
the monument for Grandpa's grave immediately  
so that it may be in place before the grass  
should begin to grow, and so that the  
flowers may be planted.

Solomon's description of a good wife in  
the 31<sup>st</sup> chapter of Proverbs gives many of  
Dear Grandpa's characteristics. He is constant,  
honest, careful and orderly, but there  
is nothing in that chapter which would do  
for an inscription. I will however put them,  
perhaps just one appropriate.

I do not think we will join any large army  
to get into any battles. We will probably  
remain here during the summer, but constantly  
be engaged in Scouting, mending here &  
there, breaking up the enemy's communications  
& supplies, & doing light skirmishy work.

Inevitably you will perceive that I  
mean, our camp will remain here, and  
our marches will not be to a great  
distance. We belong to the "First Brigade"  
First Division U. S. Inf. ~~and~~<sup>Gen.</sup>

Hawkins com. the Division, Gen.

<sup>Macpherson's corps</sup>  
Shepard the Brigade. Should we form  
any <sup>other</sup> army corps or expedition, you may  
be able to trace us by the designation  
of the Division & the Brigade.

After dinner - Our cook found a chicken somewhere  
today, and boiled it finely, over our out-door  
stove, which we made of an old piece of  
boiler iron, and a brick chimney. Our cooking  
is really excellent, and we have fast now  
fresh potatoes, (i.e. not desiccated potatoes)  
and good butter (50¢ per lb.) and milk  
made from the compressed milk which  
comes in cans, and is made by pressing  
in a vacuum all the water out of  
the milk and then sealing the residue in

are air-light cans. The process is simply  
reversed to return it to its original  
shape - simply to mix water with it  
again. Thus you can have it at any  
degree of softness, according to your quantity  
of water. The cans cost 75¢ a piece  
and last our mess several days. And  
the meat is better & richer than what  
you buy in New York. The sutler also  
keeps cans of peaches, blackberries and  
other goodies - which are excellent and  
very extravagant.

We do not have much fresh meat, but  
very good ham and bacon can be  
procured - and we live comfortably  
but expensively. Now I must close dear  
Mother. I shall go to Pickensville tomorrow.  
So you have heard about me. I am  
in very little danger from Rebels &  
none at all from disease - so far as I  
can know. The health of the men -