

MACK TO NAN

Thursday Aprile 6th 1865

My Dear Nan and Baby. I have just received a letter from you mailed Aprile 3d (but not dated.) I was glad to hear that you was still well, and that Father Hank was on the mend. I got a letter yesterday from bess and one from Lib stating that Father was very sick. it was supposed to be cold. I hope he is not sick now. I hant had any letters from Andy or any of the Boys since the Rebs mad the assault on fort Steadman in front of Petersburg, March 23d. the Rebs tried it also the 2ond time, and the fighting was terrible, and I suppose that the Boys must have been in the fight, but wether they came out safe or not I dont know. for Steadman was a short distance from our old Camp. the people here are all on tiptoe about the fall of Richmond and Petersburg. I do think Rebellion is played out now, as there Capitol is fallen and there Army is all demoralized and scattered in confusion in every direction. (what few as not taken prisnor.) Grand Army is after the rest of them and I am sure there wont be an armed Rebble in the South by the fourth of July. the great struggle that has been so long looked for has finaly come to the joy and expectation of the Loyal people of America. I expect to start home by the middle of next week. Maby sooner if I cood have my papers altered. I wood not go home now since the fall of Babolon, but my papers are made out to go to Hillsdale, and are sent to the City to be signed by Jenerel. I wish I had of had them made out to go to Jackson. then I wood have got transported to Jackson, and I wood not have been to the expence of going to Mich now, as I certainly think they wont keep me in the service very long, but now I will go home and make a short stay of it, and com to Jackson. Bess wrote that Lib Bowman ws laying very low not expected to live. She had a little Girl and the[y] neglected to draw her brest and it inflamed and mortified. I suppose it is a wonder if she lives. I will say here that the draft went off in Mich. Lea sent me a Hillsdale Standard that had the list of names drafted. I will send the list to you. I got the paper yesterday. John is drafted. Bess said he was going to get a substitute if he could he had gon to detroit, to see about it.

Tom Radabaugh used to say he wood hate to see John drafted because he loved his wife so much. Poor Boy I am sorry to hear he is drafted, but not because it is any harder for him to leave his family (on account of love) than other people. I hate to hear of any of my folks having to be drafted, but John is able to by a sub, or if he dont do that he has property enough to suport his family while he is gone. And if his lot should be never to return home (which my lot may be.) his family has something to support them where mine hant. but I wood hate for to see any of the Boys go in the army for it is a bad place, but I dont think there will be any necessity of any more men now. now I will close this letter. I hope it will find you all well and in good sperits. Still pray for me that I may be faithful to the end of life. yes answer this if you get it soon direct to Cambria Mills

Kiss tootter for me feed him lots. I am glad to hear that he is well, and harty, and likes fun. I want to see the little toot offal bad. I hope I will before long. now excuse my poor writing, for I am in a perfect buz about my furlow. I hant patience enough to wait till it comes. be a good Girl till I come home. Mc Nan, and baby.

Note: Letter written in red ink and posted Apr. 6. List of drafted men was enclosed with the letter. I have heard it said that uncle John Ewing bought a substitute and never left the state of Michigan.

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