

Brandon

Oct. 13, 1861

Dear Absent Friends:

This chilly October afternoon finds one little circle seated around the cozy fireside in descent health and comfortable circumstances (compared to some).

We received your letter last Wednesday after waiting a month or so and going to the office time after time. But we will excuse you this time if you will do better hereafter. Oh, how I wish we could be permitted to enjoy each others society but that may never be but I hope it will. One week ago last Wednesday I enlisted under Capt. Croff& was to start last Monday for Troy. There to join a black horse cavalry regiment but he was afterwards persuaded not to take men out of the county. There is now a N.Y. 34th. regiment forming in this county & I have joined it. Our company intends to organize next Wednesday at Malone. Charley Dergy (Durkee) is our Col. We are going to rendezvous at Malone. We will drill on the fairground and board at the Franklin Hotel. The regiment will stay there until it is filled & that will take until spring. I guess. I hope you will be at home before we leave for the south. It seems hard to leave so happy a home and dear friends is mine but the government must be preserved. Our forefathers spilt their blood for our freedom & we must not give it up to southern tyrants but enough of this. I will now answer some of your questions. About the front yard fence that is built & east to the be house & a board fence running south from the shop to the barn yard fence. A henhouse standing east of the horse barn 14 by 24 & a waggon house between the old house and horse barn 24 by 30. I am sorry to say we have not done any painting & the chamber will not get finished this winter I guess. It has got plenty well seasoned in round the house & as for my enjoyment it cannot but be the best in so good a home as this. Perhaps I shall get a furlow this winter and come down & see you. I hope Wm. will try to send out that money some way for money is a stranger to this place. I intend to have some of Uncle Sams money before many months. Why don't Wm. enlist. Susan & Pach (or maybe Tach) are at home yet & I think they will winter there. Hervey & Gusty started for the west about a fortnit ago. I must bid you good by. You must excuse my short letters for you know I am a poor hand to write. Now be sure and write soon with out fail.

Your affectionate Brother

J. H. W.

(Jonathan H. Wells).