

Den Jones is at Prekely  
the last I heard from  
him he had the ague,  
my health has never

been better, ~~that~~ since  
I have been in the service  
than this winter. it has  
just commenced to rain  
and seems like we were  
going to have a storm  
give my love to all of my  
friends, except my best  
~~as~~ wishes for goodness  
write soon and oblige  
your affectionate  
nephew

Thomas C. Houston  
6/1/1  
2/2/16

Camp Cowan, Miss.  
Dec. 30<sup>th</sup> 1863

Dear Aunt

it is with  
pleasure that I take this  
opportunity of answering your  
very welcome letter which I  
received last night. was very  
glad to hear from you, to hear  
that you are all in such good  
health. well Aunt I suppose  
you would like to know what  
we find to busy ourselves about  
this winter in this land of  
Rebels and of war

we are camped about eight  
miles north east - from Vicksburg  
have been here about four weeks  
when we first came here it was  
a perfect wilderness. but we  
have cleared it up and built log  
houses for winter quarters and  
now it looks like a young City  
we have a splendid camp only  
the water is not very handy that  
is good water. but we do not mind  
as long as we can get any thing  
wet. my term of service would  
have been out next spring. but  
I have recruited in the Teteren  
Volunteers and was mustered in on  
Christmas day so you see I am  
for the war. well I do not care  
how soon it ends although I am  
bound to see it through if I am  
not buried before that time.  
I am going to have a furlow  
some time this winter. and if

it was not so far I would  
like to make a visit to old Peru  
but I do not suppose I can get time  
to go so far. I had a letter from  
home a few days ago. all were well  
Bettie is in Indiana at Lewis  
Darling. her health is not very good  
she is troubled a great deal with  
her throat, and I am afraid she  
will never get over it. it has trou-  
bled her so long. aunt Eunices  
health is fading gradually and  
they do not think she will live  
a great while. our folks have  
not written any <sup>thing</sup> about Samantha  
for some time. I do not think I  
would have re-enlisted if it had  
not been for her. but I could not  
bear the idea of being near her  
I had rather fight the Rebels any  
time than to be around an ugly  
woman and as for living with  
one I would rather die first

well aunt I would like to give  
you a slight description of my  
wife but the truth is I really have  
not picked her out yet. so if you  
know any pretty young lady of  
acquaintance you can just speak  
a good word for me, and when I  
get out of this I will come out  
there and then who knows what  
may happen. I think your County  
has been very liberal and if  
the men will not volunteer for  
that they ought to be drafted  
our County has never given us  
a cent. they gave those who went  
when Gen. Aid sixty Dollars apiece  
they say when our our Regiment was  
raised those who went could just  
as well go as not and that we were  
the roughscuffs of the country. but  
I say that it is no such thing. I say  
if there is any Patriots in the army  
they are those who went at the first call

61.1  
2/2/6

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Mrs. Betsey Thew.  
Perse.  
Clinton Co.  
N. Y.

