

Camp Alexandria Feb 11th [Alexandria, Virginia 1863]

Dear Brother [Melville J. Titus, brother-in-law]

I now seat my
self to write you afew lines to
let you know how I am getting
along well I suppose you would
like to know what I sit at (scratched out) on I
sit on the ground & let my feet
hang over I am well & tuff as ever
I have not heard from By [Private Byron Holt, older brother] sinc
he went to Washington [Washington, D.C.] he went
on monday I shall loock fore
aline from him tomorrow or next
day I received your letter to day &
one from Hannah [Hannah J. Holt, Square's wife] & was very glad
to hear from you I got one from
Theodore Muscott [Theodore Muscott, a neighbor in Ingham County, Michigan]to day he has
been
sick but is getting better Tomy is
well & so is Frank Swain [Frank Swain, neighbor in Livingston County, Michigan] he says
they have only 450 men for
duty

[written in margin]

I commenced
& wrote to all I remain yours S Holt

well Mell I don't know why father
Lord [Lucius Lord, father in law] should think that you would
get hanna property or why he would
object to her leaving he could not
think she would stay there alone
& in fact I don't know as we have
got to do to do just as he says any way
I guess if I get n (scratched out) my pay she will
have enough to last the one year
with out disturbing the land
well there is some lumber just
come to make afloor in our tents
so I can sit on the floor next
time
O Evening
well I left this to get my supper
I had some good warm bread
& butter & some current sauce

coffee & aplenty of mule beefe
as the boys call it so you
need not think we don't have
any thing to eat butter is worth
35 to 40 cts per lbs

I never was so fleshy in my
life as I am now we have
had afew days of very pleasant
it rains now it has been
pretty windy here if we could get
our discharge we could draw our
bounty land now we can almost
get 40 acres on one pair of boots
yesterday I was down town on duty
I sent Hannah an Almanac
yesterday there was a[whole]division of
Pa troops come in from the
front the other day & camped
close by they make us agoodeel [a good deal]
of trouble in town I suppose that
the promotion in our company will
come up in regular order that
will bring Chase our 2 Lieutena [2nd Lt. (later Captain) Thomas C. Chase]
Well Mary [Mary E. Hopkins, Square's niece] I was real glad to get
a letter from you it was agood one
you must write very time your
Pa or Ma [Melville & Samantha Titus] does well Mant [Samantha E. Titus, older sister] I

don't know whethr I will get home
by the time you get the old
gander fatted or not but if
I don't you must have agood
old time tell Holt Chase came
in & told me to send his old
spect to her I thank you for
those stamps & hope the day
will soon come when I can return
some of those favors
well Hannah I shall have to wt (scratched out) write
alittle to you I would be glad to
g have your & Emmas [Emma Holt, Square's daughter] likeness
but I would rather see the orig
inal well I would you know
I shall write as often as twice
aweek to some of you

Andrew [Andrew S. Hopkins, Square's nephew] you & Alfy [Alpheus C. Titus, Square's nephew]
must
write if you can if not tell you
Ma & Pa [Melville & Samantha Titus] what to write write often
my love to you all
exuSe excuse this
bad writing Square Holt

[written in margin]

I suppose we will not get
any pay till March