

Alexandria, Va. Jan 20 63

Dear Brother & Sister [Melville J. Titus & Samantha E. (Holt) Titus, older sister and brother-in-law]

I take my pen in hand
to write you a few lines to
let you know how
we are getting along,
we are well as usual I have been
looking for a line from you some
time but in vain I got a letter from
Hatt [Hattie Hopkins, sister in law] Sunday she said you was sick
I hope before this time you have recovered
your health I have wrote one before
to you I have wrote 10 letters to
Hannah [Hannah J. Holt, Square's wife] & received two it seems
as though my letters did not all
go through there is a considerable
sickness in camp we have got the
Small pox amongst us Lien Burch [First Lieutenant Washington W. Burch, died of disease 7
February 1863]
**rek with it thiy said first I
***** Typhoid fever there is quite

a number complaining in
our tent John Howel [Private John A. Howell, died of disease 28 March 1863] has been
very sick with the Typhoid fever
he is getting better now
the talk is here that they are
about to make another attack
on Fredericksburg [Fredericksburg, Virginia] we hear very
good news from Kan??s
fort we get daily papers here every
day once in awhile some of the hare
a faster sent [here after sent] to them it seems all
most like home to get hold of
a Michigan ppe (scratched out) paper the Dakin boys [Private (later Corporal) William H. Dakin
& Private Isaiah Dakin]
had a cousin killed Last Friday
whilst out on a Scout it was Hubbard
Dakin [Private Hubbard A. Dakin] he belonged in the first Mich[igan]
Cavalry they said he had two balls
shot through the head he has been
to our camp several (crossed out) several times
only about a week before he was
the only one that escaped **
of seven this state is fi***

gurilla parties

Melvill if you can sell any of
the stalk to help Hannah I wish
you would use harvest get our pay
yet mor don't know when we will
get it maybe next week & mabe
not in 2 months cant tell any thing
about it but as soon as we do get it
I shall send some home By [Private Byron Holt, older brother] is coveking [cooking]
yet the boys has just drawing rations
we draw for five days to atime they
drew 57 lbs of j (scratched out) just as nice sugar as you
very often get it is as nice as any
coffee sugar you get in Jackson [Jackson, Michigan] we
get good pork bread beenes rice coffe*
heer & & good enough for soldiers
I don't like on duty here in the
city there is so much sickness in
the city we have to go in to every
**** old building where there is
every kind of disease our Begin
*** the name of doing the best
*****that ever has been here
*****this duty

I want you to write & tell
Me all about how you are getting
along we haven't had but one
sermon preached to us since we
left Jackson the chaplain came
into our tent last night for the
the first time since we left Jackson
I wished I could be there go to meeting
with you once more
I will take the privilege to write a
few Lines to Hannah in this
Dear Wife it is with pleasure
that I write these few lines to your
you must be as so utented as
you can don't trouble yourself
about me because it is sickly here
I shall be carefull as I can of my
Health how I long to be with my
Dear family may God speed the time
When we shall meet again oh if

there was more praying there woul***
been fighting good by one & all ***
from excuse the poor writing as *****