

Camp near Brandy Station Va.

Feb 2nd 1864

Dear Brother & Sister [Melville J & Samantha J. Titus] I seat myself this evening to pen you a few lines to let you know how I am getting along well Mell I am tuff and fat as Bear my health is extremely good I haven't seen Byron [Private Byron Holt, Square's older brother] since Friday last he was usually well then, our sick have nearly all been sent to the rear four of Co B went our Ordely Sergt Thomas Hays [Private Thomas J. Hays, died of disease 16 March 1864] C Patrick [Private (later Corporal Chistopher) Patrick] & A.H. Styles. [Private Augustas H. Stiles] Daniel Riggs [Private David D. Riggs] & E House are in our Regiment Hospital yet one of Co I was buried yesterday, Mrs Dr Raymond [Wife of Assistant Surgeon Mahlon H. Raymond] is here in Camp & Mis Wheelock is here to she brought anice lot of things to

the sick she visited our regt in Alexandria [Alexandria, Virginia] last winter Mell & Mant it has been so long since I received a letter from you that I cant hardly tell whether it was this winter or last, I see in todays paper that Old Abe [President Abraham Lincoln] calls for 500,000 more men come on boys don't be backward in agood ea???? we are going to have one of the finest armys this coming spring that ever was known there is some talk of the second Corps going West soon the boys seems to feel confident of good success the coming summer winter is fast passing away the time will soon come when our armies will be on the move again it all most makes one tremble to think of it

my Prayer is that God will guide & protect us crown us with success & bring us safe home to our loved ones

we live well nowdays we have
aplenty I wish I could hand
you 8 or 10 lbs of coffee we have
thousands of it we have got 6 or 8 lbs
of sugar ahead in our tent we don't
get quite as much potatoes as we
would like we don't eat any
hard tack now only on picket
there we use one ration out of
three it is verry dark and rainy
to night with some Thunder
Feb 3rd all well this morning we
had some rain with hail &
wind during the night
I don't think of much to write
this morning I guess you will
think this will do by the
time you get it read

Write often as you can
and I will do the same
the last I received from
Hannah [Hannah J. Holt, Square's wife] was Jan 22 I expect
another to night
no more this time
write soon Give my
Love to all enquireing
friends except the same
your selves
from your Brother
S Holt

To M J & S.E. Titus