

Harborcreek Jan the 7th / 63

Dear Friends

Knowing that a Letter is always welcome to them, that are fare away from Friends and home, and particularly so in your case, on account of your leaving us you did, so I writ you these lines, to cheer you up, ease your minds, and lighten your troubles as much as your circumstances will admit.

Between the hope and fears that your minds are daily troubled with, I have no doubt that som times you think you are intirely forsakin, and have not a Friend in this wide world that would take any interest in your behalf. it can not be denied ~~that~~ that your lot is a hard one, both for yourself and your Family, but you still have Friends here at home, who have ben thinking of you, ^{considering} your condition, have sympathy for you and your Folks, and have don all they could to clear you from going to the War, and restore you to your beloved ones at home.

I may as well tell you at ones, that the one who succeeded the best in pleading for you, sent for me yesterday morning, and told me to tell your Wives, to sent for you, have you com home, and all would be wright, if you will keep still and mind your own business, and this person aluded to is Capt. William Wenton: now then I will try and tell you how it has ben don and how it is:

In the first place ther was a Provost Marshal, and a detective Marshal appointed, who commenced their duty by sending those Notices (one of which you have seen) to every drafted man, that did not make his appearance. Mr. Ping Esq. deliverd yours to your Family, when at your homes, he felt sorry for your folks and told them that Andrew Scott, the Provost Marshal, was conected with him, and he would try

With the assistance of Loyer Sill, see what he could
do for Erra ^{Scott} and if successfull would then try for Jehu
he then got Limon Scott, and ^{W. Story} Newell Affidavit
and went to Erie to see what Mr Sill and himself could do in
his favor, I went to Erie a few days after, and called on Loyer
Sill, to see what luck Mr Sill had, Mr Sill told me
that they don their best, but did not succeed.

then I toled him of your (Jehus) ^{mean} case, he thought it very
doubtfull, but still if I could produce the evidence
I said I could, there was som hope, so I made out my
Affidavit, and likewise got one for Dr Bennet
to sign and make oath to, but with the Doctor I
failed, the next day I got Mr. Tenhl, Sam. John
Bunnell, and the Bellons to give in their testimony
but it all proved a failure, by the course we had
taken, I scinit ones that it was beyond the power
of any of these officers to lawfully clear any of
you, and I gave it up as a bad chobe.

but not so with Limon Scott, he still kept at silt,
and finely got Wm Henton to use his influence with
these officers, they told Henton if he would
keep it a profound secret they would favor Erra ^{Scott}
and he might com home.

Loyer Sill sent out a Letter to Mary advising her
to sent for Erra and all would be wright.

Elisa went to Capt Henton's the next day, and on
stormy day it was; to get Henton to intercede for
her, but she did not find him at home, so she
got me to go the next day, I toled Henton my
buisness, and who had sent me, at first he did
not seem to know any thing about it, but when
he seen that I was in the secret, he then toled
me all that had ben don and how it was don

He said the Provost Marshals, Andrew Scott, the deputy Marshal - Ingason, and some others whose names he did not mention, were all intimate Friends of his. he said he told them as good, and pitiful story as he could, and by pledging his word of honor to keep it a total secret, they told him he might come home, and they would not arrest him, and if any thing should turn up, that they would be required to take more severe steps in arresting the runaways, then they now have, they would let Erra know it through Mr Benton, and give him a chance to slip out of the way.

Mr Benton told me, he would go to Eric the next day and see what he could do for Peter, ^{mead} he says he well remembered of your being subject to the Rheumatism for you was troubled with it and had to leave him when you worked for him, and he hoped he would meet with as good luck in your behalf as he did in Erras, so he sent for me yesterday, told me the result of his interview which was that you could come on the same terms as Erra and neither of you would ^{be} molested by them.

I asked Mr Benton if there was no danger, in the Marshals taking this course to set a trap for you two to get you home and then arrest you, Mr Benton says there was not the slightest fear on that. he says he was well acquainted and very intimate with them all, and they gave him their word of honor not to trouble either of you, and in case of necessity they would give you a chance to get out of the way again, and the Marshals did not think they would get any such orders, Mr Benton thought that the Provost Marshals Office would go down and amount to nothing.

I have now stated you the whole transaction of the affair
as it is, I can do no more, neither can I give you any
advice, may God guide you in the course you will take.
both of your Families are well, and Eliza ^{Mead, wife of Jehu} than says
if you (Jehu) concern more or do better where you are, than
you could here, she would try and get along till the
later part of March.

I must bring this letter to a close for it is nearly
twelve o'clock at Night, it took me longer to
write it than I expected when I began.

I see by your last Letter that you have received
a Letter from Down, which I did not like, you
must keep your place to your self as long as you are there,
I do not think there is any one here that knows of your
whereabouts, the most of the People mistrust you to be
in Canada.

to J Mead

Yours &c Charles Biley

write as soon as you receive this, direct your
Letters as you have done before to Mr. Rastater

aug. 28, 1737.

My recollection is that Jehu D. Mead fled to
Michigan to escape service in the M. S. Army.

Frank A. Biley,