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Letters, 1864. Wis Mss 182S [unpublished]

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news from Gen. Sheridan, official reports,
that he on the 19th inst. defeated Early's army
in the Shenandoah valley, driving the rebels hundreds
miles, taking over three thousand prisoners,
fifteen colors, five pieces of artillery & rebel Gen.
Kroel and Gordon killed and four others
wounded. He lost Gen. Russell killed, of the
Sixth corps. Also news of a daring attempt
by rebels to capture the steamer Michigan near
Sandusky and release the prisoners on
Johnson's Island, they seized two steamers on
Lake Erie one sunk the other abandoned in
a sinking condition. The pirates escape to
Canada. Thus much for the army. The drafting
in Mil. began Monday and among the names
drawn I find Ed. C. Hopkins, Wm. H. Putney the
only ones I know. On the 15th inst. the
Racine County held a Union convention for
electing county officers. O. Sheldon President,
C. Dyer Sec. For senator they voted J. D. Case
Clark of the Court Frank Graham. Dist.
Attorney C. W. Bennett. &

I had a good long letter from Corvatio the
other day full of particulars of the taking
of Atlanta. He was not personally in the

My name is in the margin of the paper I will be glad to hear from you if you will write me at the address given below

affair, tho. they surrendered to his Corps de
Army. They consider it a great affair
But you get that thro. The papers, I am
coming back to some affairs.

Julia is gone. Received a letter, sending
for her, and took the cars Monday morning.
I am as tiresome as an owl. Can't employ
my time in any way. But will soon get
our three feelings I presume, for there is
much to do, and if Mrs Bennett and Mrs
Cander should come soon I shall then find
myself quite busy. Rufus is working very hard
as he has no man with him on whom he
can depend much. Mr Gillett is not always
to be relied upon even in pleasant weather.
Harry is a little major now, picking up
apples and doing other full work. We
could hardly get along without him. He grows
as fat as a pig, upon the apples. They look
so good to him.

Yesterday I had a letter from Mother, the
first one since father left. They intended to
leave Somers this week for Vermont, thence
to Boston. Spoke much of you, and wished
every thing good for you. They do appear to be
enjoying themselves finely.

Mr Taylor Mrs Sinton's father was killed in flight
his grave since by the cars running over him. Have
not heard from them since, but thro. Julia's letters

MAY 13 1957

Charles Holtom



Capt from Bellingham

Woodlawn Aug. 20th 64

My dear Brother.

At half past eleven I brought paper and envelopes out on this sitting room table that I only employ this interesting time till dinner was ready, in writing to you our dear absent brother of whom we think and speak so often. But just as I had done so, cousin Flora came in, puzzling me for an instant, to know whether it were not Ella. She came with a Mr Skinner, the Principal of the seminary in Delaware and were after Ella, he desiring her to go as teacher in his school. Ella being at Mr Dunning's, I suppose I sent them off there, since they would not remain to dinner. A call and so much written

in the half hour, and now I must
go and get the boiled dinner,
cabbage, beets, turnips and ham,
on the table at just twelve o'clock.
I'm very punctual here! Drop in
and have some. Your old seat
is waiting for you.

After dinner. Full. chuck full.
Don't know how well I can write now,
but desire to tell you as well as possible
how we are all doing, Rufus and I
as heads of the household.

Father left last Monday morning, taking
the P. O. N. train at Burlington for
Mil. where he was to purchase himself
a — stove pipe, gloves &c. leaving
in the evening boat for Grand Haven
All wh. we hear he did thro. a letter
from Uncle Kellogg written just
after seeing him off. To day I suppose
father is in Rochester N. Y. having
been at his cousins in Lansing
Mich. and the coming week will

be at Louisa. From there he will
find mother at Springfield or Snows
Father was to write to us from Beckett
or we shall probably hear by the
middle of next week, how he is prosper-
ing. The quiet is rather lonely, with-
out either of them, particularly
when evening comes, and we gather
around the evening lamp. Yet we
ought not to be so much, if mem-
bers make cheer, for Lulu, dear
girl, is still here, and we have had
considerable to take up our attention.
Monday spent the afternoon at
Mr Dunning's where Ella is for a
few days. Tuesday and Wednesday, I
was at home, and had several
calls, Lulu riding with Papa as he
drove about town on business. Wednesday
Mrs D. and Ella spent the eve-
ning here. Upon going out to the gate they
found their horse had disappeared
since Edles staid all night. Mrs D. &

her son, walking home. Thursday
morning opened so cold and delight-
=ful, just as the whole week had
been, that I thought I must go out
to Mr Bussells, since I had not been
there for over five years. My talking
of going rather incited R., and finally
he concluded to go with us, taking the
carriage. We had a splendid visit &
visit, and found Capt. - Dyer out
there, whom they were intending to
bring home the next day and so
make us a visit. So yesterday after-
=noon, on our return from Mr
Knowlton, where we were invited to
tea, we found Mr & Mrs B. Capt.
and their older daughter Lois. They
having been to Mr Raleighs to tea. They
remained here all night, spent
the day in Burlington, and will call
here on their return this eve. Thus
we have had a good visit with them.
They enquired all about you, and looked
long upon the last representation
of your face that we have.

Longingly do we all turn our faces to
wards you, and feel so anxious that
this long suffering struggle may end
for good and for us. Are you not free
in December next, having served you
three years, or must you serve three

something that would seem a little fresh
and pleasant to you, I am that. It worth
while. I have been drying all the corn
I could and now tomatoes. If you
know of any one coming home I believe
I could send anything for you but
as I know and you shall have some of
these goods.

Now to ourselves. On the principle
that the last shall be first, I will
say that we have just finished perusing
a letter two sheets long, from father,
who has at last reached his old home
and gives a cheerful account of all
things since he left home. He reached
Springfield Mass. where we met
a week ago to night. On going to
the Hampden House, where mother
was stopping at her cousins, he found
she was out shopping, thof. went
into the parlor & went for her.
While seated there much love and
affection came in fresh from New York.

When our sister came back she
was told that a gentleman was
in waiting to see her, and of course
expected it was father. He, however
that he would have a little fun
so sent some one to her room
and he invited her down into the
parlor to see his wife, and of course
was doubly surprised to find that
father was there after all. He relates
a pleasant visit at Lumbur, and
describes some amusing things as
occurring at a Pic Nic held there
from which. For amusement the
pleasure seekers, (between three & four
thousand,) pursued a pig valued
at \$1, and the one who could catch
and hold him was to have him.

Another story told there was of
two ducks & their ducks, who were
to run a certain distance for
a silver cup, and again to shoot
at a mark, ^{which fell} for a prize picture.

I guess these things amused him some
-what -

Sulu and I have just been down town
to take Hattie Spr, who came of the
day before, as Sulu & I returned from
Brown's Lake. The two girls appear to
like each other, and I am truly glad.
We had that of going down to Mr. Mathews
this Saturday, P. M. to get some plants
but a shower in the night makes
it entirely useless, and then meeting
Chs. Spr on the street last eve I
learned that Mrs Bennett was
coming out next week. When she comes
we shall desire to go down any way.
Myer I think will postpone it.
Going down just at evening as we did
we met many persons of our ac-
-quaintance on the street. Many of
whom enquired about you, as well
do who speak long enough with me
to ask about any thing.

Mrs Saldern & Mrs Moses Crane
called Tuesday. The former telling me
that Liram was expected next month.
His time of service having expired.
How is it about your coming home in
Dec. we look for you till you assure
us to the contrary. Perhaps I may
find time to call yet a little more
before I write this, but feel I do not
I will sign thinking otherwise for every