

ENOCH EWING TO MACK

November th6 1864

Sunday Eveni[n]g

Dear and affection Son it is with a trembling hand that I attempt to write to you to in forming that we are all enjoying Reasonable good health at present hoping these few lines will find you and Dewit well Elizabeth got a letter from dewit yesterday he gAve us the Sorrow ful nuse that alvin is amising Supposed he is killed or taken prisner poor alvin we was Sorry to here the news but hope he will Return yet before you get this letter we was glad to here that you and D.C. made your esscape through Shel and Shot as the seen of danger was upon you at that critical time of danger we Still fain would hope for your Safe Return home again amidst all the danger you are supoSed to undergo in this wicked Rebellion their is number of the boys got home on twenty days furlows thomas tc got home last thiersday he is not verry well he has apain in his breast Henry Smith is at home MR crandle is at home James Macdugle frank Sanderson Nathaniel Milard James and Dow young and Mike overly is at home andy has not got home yet emily got a letter from andy dated october the 25 he wrote that he expected to be at home in less than one week from that time he has not come yet nor nor more letters from him since that time he wrote to her not to write till She herd from him again we feel uneasy as he has not come nor wrote we Received you kind letter dated october th 24 we was glad to here from you that you was well you wanted to know if we got the letter that had the chinkipins in we got it I donot Mind [remember] the date of it When I wrote last I wrote in ahurry and didnt write you as satisfactory a letter as I would if I had taken more time November the 7 as I did not finish my letter yesterday I will finish it to day I heard this Morning that Andy got home yesterday Isaac was up to See him went home yester day they was all well we have not had any letter from Nancy for some time Isabel got a letter not long ago from her She was well there and the Rest of the family your Mother and me went up to andys this evening to See him he looks more healthy than he did when he was at home before his finger is not well yet he has got out some pieces bones he thinks they are not all out yet he got his furlow last Monday and did not get transportation til wednesday he was detailed at pittsbu[r]gh and cleveland on account of the lake being So Rough So he did not make his landing at Hillsdale til Sundy morning then had to walk home well Henry [and] D C Cherington Mother and Elizabeth put two pounds ahalf of buter in an oister can it went to the Mills it went to hillsdale and in Stead going to you it came back to the Mills again they paid 34 cents postage on it the curren[t]s and Sweet cake went Some place whether you got it ornot Well D C ido not know what to write to you to in curage you I See by your letter that you are all most out of hart of this war comeing to aclose if it were not for the copper heads in the north it would have been over before now from the threats they are making if put in force it is just begun if Abraham is elected they are going to kill of[f] the Republicans here at home so you See we are not Much safer than you are in front I believe that Honestold abe will be our next president tomorrow will tell the tale you think that we are taking comfort here we dont want you to think we have forgotten any of you I never take a drink of water Sit down to eat but I think of you all the good lord knows when to bring this Rebellion to aclose in conclusion live faithful trust in god and if we never meet on earth let us meet in heven So I add no more at present this from father and Mother Ewing write as soon as you get this

Note: This is the earliest of grandfather's letter in the collection. He may have written others. It was on Oct. 26, 1864, when they were expecting to go into a fight that father and uncle DeWitt destroyed all the letters that [they] had saved up to that date. I will say that grandfather used scarcely any punctuation marks. I have supplied them in order to make the reading easier. I have, however, followed spelling and capitalization reasonably close. This letter reflects

grandfather's strong heart and steady hand. He was fighting the "copperheads" at home while the boys were fighting the rebels in the south.

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Note: On the other hand, my transcription follows the original spelling, capitalization, syntax, and punctuation as closely as possible, so I have undone what my grandfather did. Enoch, born in 1799, would have been 65 at the time he wrote this letter. The envelope is addressed to Henry M. Ewing/2nd Mich Inft Co D/9 A.C. Washington/DC. It is postmarked Cambria Mills. Mike Overly and Marshall Crandall are the only two of Enoch's list that were in the Second Michigan Infantry with Mack. "Chinkipins" appear to be nuts that grow on the dwarf chestnut tree.

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