

summer more & better  
 than we had last  
 & I dont think we shall  
 have much more hard  
 marching to do untill cold  
 weather if we do then  
 there is a good lot of the  
 Army at the Patuxent  
 with a view to Charlestown  
 & I think the remainder  
 will fall back near  
 Washington & stay untill  
 it is filled up with  
 conscripts & I dont think  
 there will be any fighting  
 unless we are attacked  
 the Peppermasters was here the  
 other day & paid off the Regt  
 but I did not get any license  
 I was not here to receive it  
 the facts at the Hospital  
 what you see a certificate  
 when I left there to show  
 I had been mustered & that Paul  
 shall get it next Pay day

as I am of the Regt  
 for & own Boston  
 of 8 conscripts  
 the first of  
 Regt  
 will send me  
 as I am of the Regt  
 for & own Boston  
 of 8 conscripts  
 the first of  
 Regt

August 18th 1783  
 Dear Sister  
 I got your letter  
 the night before  
 & the other came  
 that our father  
 father Allen the  
 I have got some  
 papers but I  
 thought I would  
 write to you  
 a great opportunity  
 may reach to  
 my dear  
 I have been  
 very busy  
 I have been  
 very busy  
 I have been  
 very busy

on Picket for two days  
the man got a very strong  
picket line of Infantry  
a then a hunt a mile or  
was advised by me from a  
Cavalry picket and Cavalry  
pickets & the Rebs are close  
to get us so they talk to us  
often & are very suspicious  
of everything and of the pickets  
horses got a way & came  
into our line & when the  
Pikery missed him he came  
around looking for his horse  
came near our pickets he  
halted. (Held) you know  
you saw a strong horse  
and you saw (eyes) that  
will you let me come after  
him & then come back  
again (eyes) for the boy

came over & got his horse  
& then went back again  
then in a short half an  
hour the Capt. of the  
Reb pickets came a long  
talk to our pickets a  
quite a while & complimented  
them very highly  
for being so kind to  
show pickets that is better  
than to be shooting at  
and other allery time and  
shows his picket  
the says the Cavalry  
said I should stand it  
in the field you tell  
them want to be a Cavalry  
about me I am tough &  
can stand it as long as  
the Boys can the  
have lot of rations this

20

Well mate I have  
had my breakfast I will  
finish this I'll tell you what  
I had for breakfast

A fried ham & potatoes  
soft bread & coffee with  
milk in it isn't that as  
good as you know?

I don't see any signs of  
moving to day. But I think  
we shall move in a day or  
two

Well that's all  
write soon

A. Gray

Tell Pa & Ma to be  
perfectly at ease & unconcerned  
about me I shall get a  
long R. But I understand  
taking care of No. 1.

Oh I wrote a little bit of  
a lie in my other letter I  
said that Childs was not  
taken Prisoner, but he was  
but none of the Co knew  
it until the other day  
he was in the Ambler  
or Camps so they did not  
hope to see him &  
he never told any one  
until one asked him  
about it. But the Jones  
did not care any thing  
about liking him a way  
for he was taking care

of the wounded & was  
doing them as much good  
as he was us by taking  
care of this wounded  
too. Pat Davis is here  
& got your letter & he  
answered it a long time ago  
Pat is a Corporal & I  
have been reduced on  
the account of the painful  
adoption. But I am in line  
of promotion. But I dont  
give a cent, & had as  
soon be a Private as any  
thing else. Well it is all  
most 9 o'clock & I shall  
have to put my light out  
at half past 9 so I will  
close for to night & I  
finish in the morning if  
I can think of any more

to write & if I cant  
I will send it just as  
it is. I have I dont you  
cant read this but it is  
little writing than  
yours is any more  
Good Night  
A. J. Jay