

Carver Hospital, July 29, 1863

Dear Frant,

I got here safe and sound after stopping at Elmira until Monday night. While at Elmira, I learned that you had been there and had started for home Saturday morning. Oh, Frant, if only I had known, I would have given a great deal. I got there Friday night at 12 o'clock, stayed at the Soldier's Home until morning and then went to the Hospital. It was hard to be so near and not see each other.

I had a very nice time while at home, but I missed you very much. When I got on the cars, oh, how lonely I felt. Such a dreadful uncertainty lay before me . . . where would I be a year from this time? . . . when should I meet with my old friends again? Then I thought of my regiment, and how it was scattered--not hardly a boy that I knew left. I saw my country, struggling for life. I saw slaveholders and ambitious men, trying to trample underfoot the liberty of the people and to destroy that government under which our nation prospered beyond anything ever known before.

Then the darkness cleared away. I saw my duty plain before me, and resolved to perform it though it cost me my life. . . . May God help me and preserve me to see the rebellious states come back under the old Stars and Stripes and all be united.

Frant, when I wrote about taking those girls to the meeting on the Fourth, I did not think you would be jealous. When I wrote that letter, I thought I would tell you before someone else did.

Remember me as your true friend,

Edgar.

Write soon please.

[*The Jamestown Sun*, Friday, July 7, 1961]