

HAYES-GENOTER HISTORY AND GENEALOGY LIBRARY

May 7, 1863:

"One of the Rebel patients says it is the 6th time he has been wounded and taken prisoner and sent to Union Hospitals. He gets well and goes back to fight again. Must go and carry dinners to wounded men, about all I can do."

"Thank mother for the stockings, cake and popcorn she sent." Always interested in town news, he remembers that he learned that Uncle John Woodbury was elected representative.

May 23, 1863 - Mother's Death- Grief of a Soldier:

"Received a letter from Aunt Achsah, and was never so surprised in my life, and probably never shall be, as I was to hear that our dear mother was no more. I can't tell you how I felt but, you can imagine my

feelings. I had a letter a short time ago from Wintie and Father, and they said nothing about mother being sick. I can't bring myself to believe that mother is really dead - it seems like some horrid dream!"

"I may be thought weak and boyish to cry, but I did shed tears, and bitter they were, too. It is the first time I have done such a thing, since I parted with you in Nashua. Oh! I shall long remember Mother's "Good-bye" to me. Thank God I did not run away from home, for if I had, the thought of that would have added to my grief. How I wished it had been so ordered that I could have seen dear mother once more before she died. Poor Wintie, it is a hard blow to him - harder if anything than to you or me. He needs a mother's care, while we can get along. I cannot believe it to be true, while I know it is. If there was anyone I loved and had cause to love - it was mother!

May 23, 1863 - Mother's Death - Grief of a Soldier:

"Mother's Soldier Boy," as he signed his letters to her, struggling to regain his health, received another crippling blow in the loss of his mother who had sent him hand-knit stockings, cake and popcorn a few weeks previously. He referred to the parting when the 13th, N. H. left Nashua. His sister, Mary, in describing the sad leave taking, said that it was heart breaking and she would never wish to experience such a farewell again. Mary was unable to write as she had a sick infant at the time. Charles regretted that he had not been sent for, as he thought a furlough might have been granted.

Elisabeth Spofford Hobbs died at the age of 42, of a strangulated hernia. The operation was performed unsuccessfully. Charles said years later, that his daughter Sara, was the most like his mother of any of his seven daughters. He added a P. S. to his letter to Mary, "I was examined by the doctors and they said I was not fit for field duty. I can't help myself."

July 4, 1863 - Fourth of July at C. C. Hospital:

Fourth of July was celebrated at the Hospital with special exercises, speakers and singing. "The speakers were a judge from the city, fourth auditor of the Treasury, so you know how willing he was to serve his country, and a brother of John Brown, who was more rabid, if possible, than John Brown ever was."

"Dr. Crosby made a speech. It was a credit just to come from the same state he did. After the exercises were over, we were invited to go over to Carver Hospital and witness the fireworks. They were very good. Some of the soldiers showed their dispositions for fighting by throwing rockets at each other and into the crowd. When anyone ran they would be asked if they belonged to the 18th Corp. at Gettysburg."

"All of the lemonade we could drink that day, and a mug of beer at