

## LETTERS FROM MARIA KINSLEY AND HEPHZIBAH PIPER

**Narrator:** On November 3, 1864, Maria Kinsley, who had already lost a son Francis in the war, sought information about another son.

**Maria Kinsley:** To the office of the Sanitary Commission:

I have taken the liberty to address the office in relation to Thomas Kinsley, a private in Company E, 26<sup>th</sup> Regiment, Massachusetts Volunteers. When last heard from, he was in the hospital but where or in what one I was not informed, but the name of the surgeon in charge of the hospital was D. B. Bigelow. If you know anything of said Kinsley, please answer by return of mail and relieve the anxious mind of a mother. With respect, Maria R. Kinsley.

**Narrator:** Sadly, Thomas died on November 10, 1864, before his mother would receive a reply from the commission. The two brothers are buried side by side in Woodlawn Cemetery.

Hephzibah Piper, who was related to several young soldiers, lamented in a November 13, 1864 letter:

**Hephzibah Piper:** Oh, how said it was to have them there soldiers all brought home dead—they was all buried up to West Acton grave yard.

**Narrator:** She was referring to Eugene Hall and John Fletcher who died at the Battle of Winchester shortly before their terms of enlistment were due to end.