

LETTERS TO HENRY HAPGOOD

Narrator:

In October 1862, father John and brother Luke Hapgood wrote a combined letter to Henry serving in the Massachusetts 6th Regiment.

John Hapgood:

Son Henry.

I write you a few lines in haste to let you know how we are and how we are getting along at home

I have some melancholy news to write you now.

The first part of last week Mr. David Sweet left his house and went to Mr. J. Wheelers... while there and talking he at once faltered and died instantly

On Friday evening last one of the most destructive fires broke out that ever happened in Acton Cause as yet unknown, it originated in the stable in the rear of Capt John Fletchers shoe Manufactory burning that and the store adjoining and the Tavern ...and communicated to the Town-house all in a short time lay in ruins. The wind at the time was very high and things all very dry there was but very little water in the wells.

The loss probably from 15,000 to \$20,000 I went as soon as I knew of it after 8. O,clok but they were all on fire before I could get there Some of them consumed. The Engines came up from Concord but did not arrive until 10 O,clock too late to do much good

I have nothing more of importance to write you now, I suppose you know more of the war news than I.

From your affectionate Father

J. Hapgood

Luke Hapgood:

Ever. Dear. Brother.

As Father has left room I will try to answer your letter of Oct. 10. which I was very glad to receive. We are all well and I hope you are too, you must take good care of your health and not expose yourself unnecessarily.

Father +I get along with the work after a fashion we have got 100 baskets of corn husked the potatoes dug and most all of the apples picked...

We have made about 20 barrels of cider for Mr. Hayward and got a pressing on now we have got to make 25 or 30 barrels for Mr. Meads right away ...

I hope you won't be brought into battle if it can be otherwise... .. Well I suppose I must close so

Goodbye from your affectionate brother Luke.