

Open

1861?

Dear John.

I have no news, but have an idea this morning, which I think it my duty to let you know. It is this, that should you take any female Prisoners take good care of them & bring them home, but we dont ^{want} ~~want~~ abolitionists - let such go back to the North, way up beyond Kansas. Tell Wm Phelps & Channing Phelps to do as you do respecting female prisoners.

Tell George Grayham & Charles Stuart that Nat Grayham was here a few days ago & said that his folks were all well. He was however ^{still} mad that they would not let him go to the Wars.

We have a great deal of sickness. I have been nursing my sick folks day & night ever since I recovered. I want to go over & see you all - but really cant go. But dont you

be surprised to hear of me
being on the War path before
a great while. Such men as
me & Nat Grayham are
apt to do good fighting.

If it was possible for me
to go I would be in your
midst before another week.

We are (those of us who are
up on our feet) feel proud
and quite animated about
you all being so well organized
and united. You only want
a chance to make glory for
yourselves and Country. We
are all sorry you were not
at the battle of Springfield.

Hope you will get good guns
such as will send the bullets
just where you take sight.
Remember me to your brave
captain - to all who know
me and tell your Cousins
Eckinizer & William that
I shall think of them daily.
I had set apart yesterday
to write a good many letters
to the Choctaw Regiment

but we were all so crushed
down in feeling, believing
that my little grand son had
die that I failed to write.

Peter's wife & child are both
write me and both very low.

As Peter will tell all the
news I will conclude this
hasty written letter.

I am your old
uncle

P. P. Stephens