

1863  
Philada Sept 13

Capt Dillingham

Dear Sir

It is with sorrow that I seat myself to inform you of the situation of your son Johnny and likewise John Hide they are both in the hands of the enemy the ships of the blockading squadron off Charleston were called upon two furnish men to storm fort Sumter the Housatonic were to furnish 30 men your son & Hide volunteered their services we man two boats 18 men in <sup>one</sup> 17 in the other <sup>boat</sup> containing 350 men were tow into the fort half past 1 O'clock we hail the fort and demanded its surrender it was refused we attempted to land and scale the & battered walls but ~~were~~ were repulse with the loss 6 boats & 100 men I was fortunate enough to escape in my boat poor Johnny & Hide were made prisoners it was the 8 of sept I left Housatonic on the 9 just as I ~~left~~ left the ship a tug boat cam out

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It is with sorrow that I seat myself to inform you of the situation of your son Johny and likewise John Hid they are both in the hands of the enemy the ship's of the blockading squadron off Charleston were called upon two furnish men to storm fort sumter the Housatonic were to furnish 36 men your son & Hide volentere their services we man two boats 18 men in one. 17 in the other <sup>[14?]</sup> 20 boat comtainng 350 men were tow into the fort half past 1 O clock we hail the fort and demaned its surrender it was refused we attempted to land and scale the batterd walls but were repulse with the loss 6 boats & 100 men I was fortunate enough to escape in my boat poor Johny & Hide were made prisoner's it was the 8 of sept I left Housatonic on the 9 just as I [b?] left the ship a tug bort cam out

Contributed to Maine Memory Network by Freeport Historical Society

Date: Sept. 13, 1863

Description: Woodbury Purington letter to John G. Dillingham of Freeport, Maine

To and inform our Capt that ~~our~~ our  
boats crew <sup>were</sup> all prisoners and Capt P  
Pickering was about to send their clothes  
and money to them I would advise you  
write Capt P about them he will  
give you all the information in his  
power direct Capt George W Pickering  
USS Housatonic

off Charleston  
please inform Hides <sup>father</sup> of the fate of Hide  
I know not his address or I would  
write him I shall probably be to home  
by third of this month if you wish to see  
me you will find me at my Father's house  
Capt John M Purinton East Harpswell  
Maine

Yours Respty

Woodbury s Purinton

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boats crew were all prisoners and Capt P  
Pickering was about to send their clothes  
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