

your affectionate son  
John M Dillingham

US Sloop of war Housatonic  
off Charleston June 12<sup>th</sup> 1863 [1863]

Dear Mother

I should have  
written before but you know  
what a dislike I have for  
writing and I think it only  
increases the longer I wait. I  
received your letter of the  
24<sup>ult</sup> this week you need not  
feel alarmed about the warm  
weather troubling us. you must  
remember we are not in port  
about the news on the blockade  
I can say it has been very  
still here the past three weeks  
nothing having having tried  
to run in or out or if  
they have we have not seen  
them and so lost the fun

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[written upside down over first page]  
but I have my sheet full and is  
wonderful for me so I will close

[written along side in top left margin of p. 1]  
your affectionate son

John M Dillingham

Contributed to Maine Memory Network by Freeport Historical Society  
Date: June 12, 1863  
Description: Letter from John M. Dillingham to his mother, Margaret  
Dillingham of Freeport, Maine

having a shot at them I suppose  
folks at home think that if  
a steamer is once seen it is all  
day with her if so I can tell  
them they are mistaken.  
one shot or two dont the steamers  
that run here. Two deserters  
came off to our ship last  
sunday morning they say things  
look blue in Dixie  
they have been in the Confederate  
service 18 months and were in  
sumpter the time of the attack  
they say the fort was badly  
damaged three of the shot having  
gone through and that the  
fort was for the point of  
surrendering. Beauregard has  
gone to Vicksburg to reinforce  
Pemberton and the  
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guns out of the <sup>str</sup>Keokuk and  
I have one mounted in fort Sumpter  
the other in Battery Bee  
the deserters say they enlisted  
in Memphis with 67 others out  
of that company 63 have deserted  
four died and the other two  
were coming off with them  
but their courage failed them  
We are going to have a new  
leader down here Admiral <sup>mr?</sup>Foot  
it to take Duponts place  
all I think will like the change  
what has Dupont ever done  
to make him have such a great  
name? he took two little  
batteries at Hilton Head and  
Bay point with a force as big  
as <sup>mr?</sup>Farragut had at New Orleans  
What has he not done why  
he did not take Charleston  
when he might as well as not  
Foot is the man let us have him  
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I do not know as we have much  
of a fighting name whare you  
are but we must have somewhere

I went alongside of a suttler  
~~Schooner~~ Schooner last week when  
a fellow asked me what vessell  
that was (pointing to us) the Housatonic  
the Housatonic you dont that is  
that great fighting boat aint she  
of course I told him yes  
you aint iron clad are you

I told him no  
you must have some peskey  
great guns there

I told him that two pivots as  
Hundred pound Rifle and a 11 inch  
were our heaviest  
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[written alongside foregoing]  
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