



Hollis Novem 28 1865.
Mrs D. M. Rea. Dear Madam -
The Circular of the San-
Com. came while I was absent in Mass.
and I will now try to answer some of its
questions, though I fear it may be too late
to serve your purpose.
Early in Sept 1861 two or three ladies spent
three weeks in soliciting contributions for the
soldiers through the lower section of the town
of Buxton and Hollis, and awakening an
interest in the labors of great work of the
San. Com. We were always received with civility,
and met with a though many families, and
those among the most wealthy, declined to
aid us in any way. Scarcely any opposition
was expressed in words, though occasionally
a person would be met hardy enough to
tell us, those who made the war right to
take care of the soldiers. We received a very
generous response, especially from those
dependent on their own labor for support.
One woman gave us a nice, new comforter saying
she knew she should need it that winter,
but she told her husband if they were cold in

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Date: November 28, 1865

Description: Responding to an inquiry from the Sanitary Commission, an unidentified writer explains how and why the Buxton-Hollis Soldiers' Aide Society was organized and how it functioned during the Civil War.

plied or lost.
How was money raised? Each member paid
an annual fee of one dollar, and we received
occasional contributions.
How has it been raised since? We had a
fair at a private house and two concerts in
the meeting house - and sold Christmas wreaths
in Portland once for our Society, and ten dollars
from the Col. of the 1st Maine Cav. who received a *
What amount received. ~~several~~ ^{received} ~~grants~~ -
The Fair, Concerts, Christmas wreaths and Col's
donation amounted to one hundred and eighty dollars.
What amount given outright to San. Com? None.
Amount of supplies sent San. Com? Eleven
hundred seventy one dollars and ^{thirty} twenty five cents.
What other Societies have acted with you?
Union Falls Society - numbering twenty members
What have acted independent of you but through
the Com? There were two other Societies in the
towns, but I do not know where they sent their
supplies.
What has been done gratuitously by R. Roads etc?
The York & Cumberland R. R. carried all ^{gratuitously} ~~for~~ ^{Mr. Stone}
What done by Schools etc? Nothing.
What by Individuals and Churches? Don't know.
What evidences of sympathy on part of town officials?
What incidents of sacrifice and trial on the part of food?
The greater part of ~~the~~ the labor and the stores

the night they could get up and build a fire, but the poor soldiers couldn't.

At the end of three weeks we found the rooms in our house devoted to that purpose piled up with most comfortable clothing and bedding - numbering the quilts, pillows stockings etc by the hundred.

"Time of organizing?" October 1st 1861

"Reasons for organizing?" To systematise our work and make a regular channel for the contributions of the patriotic which might otherwise never have reached their destination. To keep up an interest in the cause, and to share in some measure the burden of the war.

"Number of Members?" Fifty - the first year which numbers diminished about one third before the end of the war.

What opposition was met with? The great argument of the opposition was that the soldiers would never receive any of the articles sent.

'How was it overcome?' We wrote the name of the donor on every article, and refuted this argument by numerous and grateful letters received from the soldiers. I don't think we ever sent a barrel or box without receiving one or more letters proving they were never misap-

plied or lost.

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 [Sideways on left]

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by those dependent on the labor of their lands for
a living.

What testimony for the Com. has been received from
soldiers? We probably received more than one
hundred letters, all expressing grateful acknowl-
edgment of benefits received.

In addition to this, we have contributed to
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