



Pownal July 16th 1865

Dear James,

Yours of the 4th Inst. is just received. We were glad to hear from you after so long a time and we presume you are well though you did not write so. Our folks are all well. Lizzie, The Dr. & Charley left here about 10 days ago for Pittsfield, Lizzie & Charley having been here 4 weeks & the Dr. 3.

The health of the Dr. & Charley is first rate but Lizzie is quite feeble yet not being able to sit up but a small part of the time.

The Dr. kept a horse & chaise here so that he rode out every pleasant day.

I received a letter from Charley a few days ago. He says his health is quite good. I suppose you have heard how he fell out by the way (During a hard march) was Sun-Struck and sent back to the hospital at Savannah. He says that he is now acting as Clerk in a Quartermaster's department at Hilton Head and about two hours work in a day to do. not being allowed to join his regiment.

He made a great mistake in going into the service, being altogether too young.

Contributed to Maine Memory Network by the North Yarmouth Historical Society

Date: July 16, 1865

Description: Letter from Nathaniel Lawrence of Pownal, Maine to his son, James, a Civil War Soldier who recently transferred into the 6th United States Colored Troops.

Mary gets along well with her school.
It will keep some weeks longer.
We are now in the midst of haying. I have
had no help yet but soon expect a mowing
Machine. It is now quite dry though
the hay crop will be very good.
Frank is about turning his stable into
a house. The price of hay has fallen off ama-
zingly since the war. I have 7 tons
which might have been sold to the govern-
ment last winter for \$20^{per ton} at the barn & sold
yesterday for \$12. But all kinds of meats
have been and are unusually high.
I sold my veal calves at the barn for
from \$8 to \$10 a piece from 3 to 4 weeks
old. Saml Tuttle has got back from
California and does my marketing. He
went to market yesterday and sold my
butter for 28^{cts} & eggs for 26 cts per doz.
Among the high things, tax is also
come in for a hearing. Mine are a
few cents short of \$60 money tax.
I don't think of any more gossip to tell
you though the girls might think of a good deal.

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It will keep some weeks longer
We are now in the midst of haying. I have
had no help yet but soon expect a mowing
machine. It is now quite dry though
the hay crop will be very good.

Frank is about turning his stable into
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butter for [\$]28 cts & eggs for 26 cts for doz.

Among the high things taxes also
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I don't think of any more gossip to tell
you though the girls might think of a good deal.

It seems you have entered on a new vocation that of commander of a company of Contrabands. That must seem very odd to you at first but you will soon become familiar with that duty. I suppose the darkies are in good spirits, and if allowed would give you a plenty of music. Such as (Darkies have you seen my master & c.) Write often and tell us how you like your new situation and when you expect to come home. Tell us what pay you get and what duties you have to perform and how you fare.

We would like to know ^{who} the commander of that department is & if there are any white troops there & what appears to be the feeling of the majority of the Carolinians. It is not at all strange that that proud people should feel a little sour to see the darkies placed over them to preserve order. I will now close while I remain as ever

Yours affectionately
N. S. Lawrence

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Yours affectionately

N. S. Lawrence

P. S. Charles Colly, Scott Morse, Elijah
Blake & Asa Chase all well and hearty
except Blake who is a little unwell.
I heard yesterday that John Libby,
Abbot Colsey & William Pore had got
home all well.
N. S. L.

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