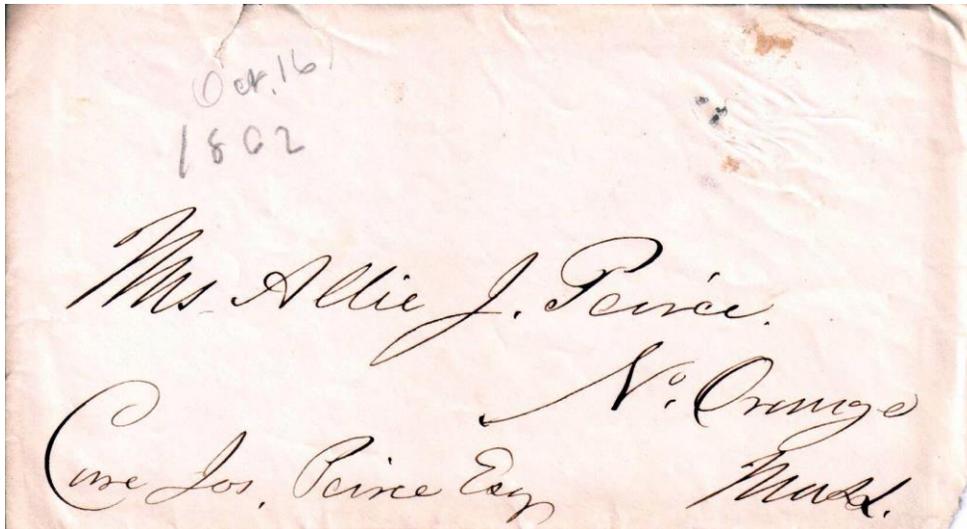


THE SERGEANT JEROME PEIRCE COLLECTION

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ENVELOPE



LETTER TRANSCRIPTION

Pleasant Valley 16 Oct/62

My dearest Wife,

I wrote Jos. and Foster today, in haste feeling afraid, we might have to march suddenly, but all is quiet. it is now noon. Have just got *letter nine* in all, your last from O 10nth besides two others from Boston. Am sorry you feel so lonely and down hearted. You *must try and cheer up* if you wish to help us any, for we know too what it is to be away from our *homes*.

I am glad you are getting *picked up*, and I hope you will be near by *some* different surroundings for I think you will feel better. (*This is a private letter[;]* as it is dated the same as Jos you can make it so)

You speak of the folks having me *homesick*. If it is *homesickness* to prefer *peace* and my *family circle* to being out here, with all its *fatigues* and *privations*, then I am *homesick*, but not a moment have I regretted enlisting. But I ought not to notice it, especially when they have such a *sick set* of *gallants* at home! Ba[h]!

Had a nice letter from *Billerica*, M. Frances, the same date as yours from O. also one from sister *Heald[?]* withers[?] just like her, cheerful and like old times—wants to send something—and let me say

now tat we can't have things sent till we are where some Express comes, and if Alonzo, has anything it is at Harpers Ferry, where he will have to send for it. When there is a chance I will let you know. We are living very well at present, and *I* can get along[.]

We got back to our tents last night after a march of 12 miles. all pretty well. of J.H. I wrote to his father. Had a letter from *Frank*, from *Suffolk*[.] was well and in good spirits.

A letter from Bro *Ballou*. will answer soon. Also one from Charles *Sanger*. Remember me to them all. *Writing* is almost as hard as *marching* so friends must be patient, but I thank them for remembering me so kindly. We had a pleasant march up the *Canal* from "Point of Rocks[.]" It is a wild romantic place, a high cliff of rock 150 ft high. I gathered some weeds by the Canal, as we rested[.] I will enclose, for you to press for Lulu. Dear little one, who would have thought she *realized* so much about *home*? She don't want to see papa more than he wants to see her. I wish I could say, or do[,] something to cheer you up[--]have tried to always. I feel that a – time will decide something and can only years hope for the best. All we can to is to work—everybody—and do *something* to the great end. Henry M. is writing home. I think I get all your letters now though some of the boys complain. I write at the rate of two *letters a week* to you alone. Tell me all about your visit to Mr. *Ward* and whether you have got to go to him in *person* every month. it seems as though you might authorize someone or have him send it to you.

Did you get my letter saying "I would not return to O at any rate" &c[.] I heard an expression for there, saying "I might whistle to keep my *Courage* = of it when I wrote. I know how they up" &c. it provoked me, and was thinking = feel[?] But enough—don't say anything about it. get your things fixed at B. and let that end our connections there always remembering our *friends* there. I hope you will enjoy much with the *Mayo's*. my best regards to them all. I have answered his letter, in one of Henry's.

Have recd. a "Trumpet Freeman" &c from Mary, I suppose, thanks.

You see I am attempting *ink*. my pencils were so bad, and the *Sutler* brought in some ink. will try and *scrawl*, but if you Could see the *comforts* of writing you would prize them. Will stop awhile and see Alonzo R before closing. Could you make me a *Soap bag* and send in a paper. Oiled *silk* is good to make it of. it need be but very small--as long as half of this sheet of paper (up and down[)], and not quite as wide.

3 P.M. Have just got through Co Drill and must close, for it looks like moving tonight. Still we may not[.]

Direct as before, and keep in good spirits. Kisses for you[r]self and darling Lulu. Shall think of you Constantly and remain as ever your own

Jerome

Put on Corpl. *before* my name, and direct so in future Corpl. J. Peirce etc.