Mc Coy's Creek May 1st 1867

Dear Sir Gent,

I see your letter some time since and ought to have answered it before but have been very busy. I have given up the idea of going into the Army, My reasons are these. In the first place I don't want to take my family to Texas. I know that away from home enough and am now determined to have them with me. To go to New York and live in Washington get my uniform and all I should have to get to fit me up to shape. I would have
to if I went into the
Regular Army would cost
as much as three or four
hundred dollars. I have
not yet any such amount
of money and don't know
where I could get it.
I should have to borrow the
money, and I must pay
I don't know when the
man is who would lend
it to me. Another thing, I
think I can earn more
money here at $75. per
month than I could in
the Army as 2d Lieut.
Then are my parents and
Celia and the folks at home.
Think I don't what was
best.
And now to change the subject, if I can get you a chance as messenger, would you like it? I don't know as I give but if you count one I will try and do the best I can for you. You can do the business as well as any one. I could show you in two or three days by having you with me on the train so that you could understand it. I went two trips with the other messenger and then took my regular runs and have had no trouble at all.
Tell them that I wrote and told him and Bill of you. Are you still with Nelson or have you got onto any other business. Write me all about what you are doing and if you could like a chance as messenger. I could get you one if possible. Give my love to Bill and kiss Nesta for me. I wrote to mother and Celia last night.

We have had one accident on my train since I commenced running. One man killed and eight wounded. The passenger car rolled down an embankment in fast turning over and a half over—George Dickinson.
Earl Smith
Ottawa
Illinois
From Henry Isaac Pierce in McGregor, Iowa
To his brother Earl Pierce in Ottawa, Illinois
Dated May 1st, 1867, envelope postmarked May 2 and in "care of N.A. Throop" written on "Merchants Express Co." stationery
Union

Dear Bro. Earl,

I rec your letter some time since and ought to have answered it before but have been very busy - I have given up the idea of going into the Army. My reasons are these. In the first place I don't want to take my family to Texas. I have been away from them long enough and am now determined to have them with me. To go to New York and pass an examination, get my uniform and all that I should have to get to fit me up in the shape I would have to if I went into the Regular Army would cost as much as three or four hundred dollars. I have not got any such amount of money and don't know where I could get it. I should have to borrow the money, and I must say I don't know where the man is who would lend it to me. Another thing, I think I can save more money here at $75. per month than I could in the Army as 2d Leuit. These are my reasons and Celia and the folks at home think I done what was best.

And now to change the subject. If I can get you a chance as Messenger would you like it? I don't know as I can but if you want one I will try and do the best I can for you. You can do the business as well as any one. I could show you in two or three days by having you with me on the train so that you would understand it. I went two trips with the other Messenger and then took my regular run and have had no trouble at all.

How is Newt doing. Tell him that I will write to him and Bell soon.

Are you still with Newt or have you got into any other Business. Write me all about what you are doing and if you would like a chance as Messenger I will get you one if possible. Give my love to Bell and kiss Katie for me. I wrote to Mother and Celia last night. We have had
one accident on my train since I commenced running. One man killed & eight wounded. The Passenger Car tolled down an embankment 15 feet turning once & a half over - George Dickinson a Brother of James was one of those wounded. I have been to see him several times. He is doing well and will go home in a few days -

Your Brother, Hank