

Paine, David H. Artifact: letter 2004.24.1

David H. Paine was born in Eden, Maine, on the northern side of Mt. Desert Island on April 30, 1826. He married Margaret Stanley on February 24, 1850. Their son, Norman D. Paine was born in 1862. Paine served with E Company of the 26th Maine, enlisting on September 10, 1862, when he was 36 years old. A few months after he was discharged on August 15, 1863, Paine re-enlisted with the 3rd Battery Maine Light Artillery on December 22, 1863. He was discharged a second time on June 17, 1865. After the war, Paine returned to Eden. He was wounded during the war, and spent four months at the veteran's hospital at Togus from September 1907-January 1908. Paine died on May 15, 1908.

April 10th -/65

Dear Wife

I will write you a line to let you know that I still live but the Rebellion is dead, dead, dead, Richmond, the Babylon, the mother of harlots is fallen and so has Petersburg, the city we seized through the sultry heat of last summer.

they fell in to our hands last Monday it was quick work, and the greatest victory of the war our troops broke the lines in front of Petersburg twenty five miles from Richmond and the rebels evacuated both Cities and our troops went in and took possession without resistance. Grant followed close to their heels, he has captured 30,000 prisoners, and killed and wounded 20,000 more thus taking 50,000.

A dispatch has just reached here from Gen Grant that Lee has surrendered the whole Confederate Army including 30,000 under his immediate command, the balance are scattered all over the Confederate States we are all having a great Jubilee and well we might for this War has desolated our land you can form no idea of the sufferings the poor soldiers have endured, altho they have the burden very patiently.

I have endured hardships myself which you know nothing of, I have not been sick enough yet to go to the Hospital and have not been hit by bullets or fragments of shells, except once I was hit in the leg last fall by a bullet at Fort Rice.

it was what Soldiers call a spent bullet, its force was about done it came over the Parapet and from its direction it must have come nearly a mile, it left a purple spot on my leg below the knee, and I was lame for about three weeks but was on duty all the time, I feel confident that we shall soon get out of this, so stiffen up your backbone and I think you will pass the fiery ordeal.

I rec'd a letter last night but did not say when you got one from me I have sent you.

in all \$ 158, but have heard from only 130 if you get it I should like to know it for it is no satisfaction for me to send money home and not know whether it ever got home or not.

it rains hard to day and I am on guard but brighter days are coming.

I wrote to Eliza the other day according to your orders but you did not tell me what to say so I wrote what came uppermost and if there is any thing wrong taint my fault.

I wrote to your father a short time ago but expect the war news reached him by the papers before my letter did.

but I must close and go on th guard.
D H Paine