

*(Letter with no envelope is on one sheet of lined stationery folded in half and is written on four sides in pencil.)*

Southington  
June 1<sup>st</sup> 1863

Brother Upson,

Dear sir I am glad of an opportunity to address you as a live man you probably know before this that you have been Killed on the Battlefield, but I will give you my own description as the news came of your being missing, Probably Killed. The next morning after this news (it being received in the afternoon of the day previous) I started down to see Elizabeth and others and to contrive what course to pursue in reference to you & others, as I came down to Uncle Hopkins Carters, Jane Twitchell & Aunt Phila came out and said that they had telegraphic news that James was Dead. That Dwight had gone to the Corners to take the cars to go down to the army and if dead try to recover the body that the remains might lie entombed beside friends in his native land. They said to me I do wish you would go down with him (**Pg. 2**) saying it is too bad for him to go alone accordingly I drove on down to the Corners where I found Dwight. H. Carter, T. Higgins, Alfred Hotchkiss, & others. They wished me to go down with Dwight & learn what I could concerning your fate. I stayed to talk but a few minutes I drove on down to see Elizabeth. I found her feeling so badly with such a desire to have me go that I concluded at once to go. I drove back to the corner told Dwight that I have concluded to go with him and would meet him in New Haven or New York that afternoon ready to go to Washington in the night train. This was Friday after the Battle at Chancellorsville accordingly. I went home made arrangements to leave, went by the way of New Britain, took the cars on the Hartford Road, and meet Dwight in New Haven, about two o'clock. Arrived in Washington Saturday morning as soon as the Offices were open tried to obtain a pass down to the army but under the exciting state of things the War Department utterly refused to grant papers, notwithstanding our defeat men of influence told us they could (**Pg. 3**) obtain papers for us Monday morning, we tried two or three parties who operated through different Offices. All confident of success. But all failed. When I found I could not pursue my Business any further you can imagine my feelings. I had started to ascertain your fate as well as to look after the welfare of our Soldiers in general, but here I must stop. I tell you I did not like it. With my make for leaving preliminaries and passing on to results you can imagine how I looked upon you as dead its impression on the company the consequences in reference to your Family. I saw your family all broken up but without saying anything to any one (for it was not yet time to talk) I had my plans all laid for them. I doubt not you would be a little amused if you were ever to know what they were but if you were taken away. I felt that my cares would be greatly increased but at the same time felt no distraction to shrink from them. But this crossing a bridge before we come to it. But this time we had some reason to be filled with fearful apprehensions - (**Pg. 4**) I am glad to see my plans and imagination cast to the wind like a bubble that bursts in the air, Upson is all safe - swing the Hat - Thank glory to God while all the people say Amen - You probably have improved in personal appearance since the time you started down to Richmond. And possibly your hunger is somewhat abated although

(6-1-1863)

under partial confinement I suppose your release is near. I am now having my corn for the first time the ground is very dry and unless we get rain soon the grass crop must be very light. We are following our usual round of farm occupation and enjoying a comfortable degree of health. June goes to school down to the Academy. Edgar had gone to New Britain to live with Bingham. My other three children are attending District School while all unite in sending regards to you in my mail. I will try to write concerning home affairs.

Yours as ever,

Jo Gridley