

Hampden March 30 1863

Gov. Coburn

Dear Sir

I have a dear son at Baton Rouge or
Port Hudson who enlisted in the 22^d
Maine Regt. went into Barracks 10th Sept
at Bangor a nine month man the Regt.
as you know went to Washington before
it was fully clothed and armed ordered
to Arlington heights then exposed to
a northeast rain storm thirty six
hours, nothing but the canopy of the
Heavens to protect them, here they remained
Eight days then ordered to Newport news
then remained three weeks and two days
when left for New Orleans Fifty four left
at Fortrep M. in Hospital this exposure
at Arlington heights some poor fellows
took their death cold and died some was
sick a long while partially recovered and
discharged, my poor boy was one of the
sufferers taking cold his general health

poor was taken with bloody dysentery
at Newport news but partially recovered
they carried him to Botan range there
was sick 28 days with bad cough pain
in his side and back unable to do
duty could not eat Soldiers have lost
him all his wages to live beside I
have sent him money twice and
medicine for postage on rubbers &
medicine at the rate 6 lbs per ounce
at one time mounting two cads 5¢ per
at that rate I am sending him something
once each week had Congress passed
a Law fixing the rate one cent per
ounce it would be not much of a burden
to furnish such things as the poor sick
ones need, my son writes more he says
that his back and side is some better
but his cough is very troublesome
that he is doing duty the Capt Henry
Crosby Hampden ^{letrip. At} writes me that my
son should be discharged with 5 or 6
others they had been before the

Examining Board they did not
recommend their Discharge since
then three of my neighbors sons
have died, namely William Walker
Alphens²⁰ Porter Epnair Knolls
had they been discharged when they
applied they might possibly have
lived, it is said that the Surgeon
is not competent for the work
I know not how that is but there
have been 500, cases treated in the 26 Regt.
and but 3 deaths according to Hospital
Steward account while in camp.
22nd only 30, men fit for duty & deaths
in camp, and 68 deaths in Regt.
according to best Information I have
it seems hard that Gov. Washburn
should consent for 9 months men
to go so far from home to climate so
uncongenial to northern men Instead
of taking men more acclimated
it was supposed they would garrison
the Forts near and about Washington

and take Soldiers that had some
Experience in war, what I fear is that
my Son is going into Consumption
by his Cough continuing so long he
writes to me to know how long they
will have to stay, when they will
be discharged whether they are to stay
till they all die, I have wrote to him
I will Inquire, if you I have no means
of knowing I have stated what I have
Learned of the Condition of the Regt.

pardon the liberty I taken to address you
as one of your Constituents and give me
the desired Information as I feel deeply
upon this Subject.

Yours Respectfully

Edmond Knowles

to his Excellency Gov. Coburn

As far as possible discharge
true person & no wife and family

Adm't Ben in 22 Reg't

March 30. 63

Edmond Knowles