

Castport, Oct. 3, 1861.

Gen. Israel Washburn Jr.

Dear Sir,

Mr. Chas. H.

Smith of this town is desirous of being appointed to a captaincy in some company of the Cavalry Regiment now being raised in this State. He would prefer, I presume, to have a position in the company from this County.

I have advised Mr. Smith to go directly to Augusta where you can form personal observation form an opinion of his fitness for the position he would obtain. He is a graduate of Waterville college, and has taught the High School here for several years with very marked success. I have been intimately acquainted with him during the time he has resided here, and know him to possess in a large degree the elements which are essential to true manhood. I believe him to be just such a person as we need for officers in the grand army, which is to sustain and perpetuate the government and the institutions.

Mr. Smith attempted to raise a company
new for the 6th Regiment but
yielded his claims to Capt. Lang,
in order that the raising of the company
might not be retarded.

I think a personal interview with
Mr. Smith will give you a favorable
estimate of his qualifications for the
position he solicits.

I am
Very Respectfully
Yours Truly
N. S. Pratt