

Portland Aug. 5th 1862

Dear Sir,

My grandson, John H. Goddard, a Lieut. in the Maine Cavalry Regt, has probably addressed you with a request to be transferred to a regiment of Infantry. I am informed that the chief duty, hitherto, of the cavalry has been that of scouts, in which I believe he has had, & has been willing to have, his full share; but it is probably more severe, as a day & night service, than most kinds of military duty.

I think that both his organization & education furnish the right preparation for a military life; but I do not wonder that having shared largely in the above duty, he should want to be where he should be more certainly ordered into battle with the enemy, than the Cavalry are likely to be, as well as that he probably needs the change; — perhaps the more on account of a blow he rec^d. in the stomach, from the butt end of a musket, when his horse was killed under him, & before he could extricate himself.

I do not think him disposed to shirk any part of his duty.

I am glad to hear through another channel than that of friends, that in the attack by Jackson, he performed his duty well. — Believing for above reasons his request is reasonable in its nature, I hope you will

be disposed, & be able to gratify him in it, as well as his friends.

The bearer of this, the Rev. M. A. Beard, who has been recently invited to take charge of a large Congregational ^{Society} (in Bath) & who is a brother in law of my grandson, forms one of our family circle, & in common with the rest of us, would be gratified with your compliance with his request.

Very Resp^{ly},
Yours,

Henry Goddard

For reference to J. W. Goddard,

Goddard, Sr.

Goddard
Aug 7, 1862