Livernour Sept. 21st 1863 Maine

Dear Sir,

I take this opportunity of asking a question which perhaps you will say it no need to ask as the law provides for the case without any trouble to me. I wish to know why Davis Laribe is not reported as a deserter if that is the case. Davis Laribe enlisted from this town some time in August 1862 was in Company C 20th West Maine Volunteers It is reported here in private circles that he is in Canada thus has been a long time his family does not pretend to know where he is nor have any letters from him. He has a wife & seven children in this town every poor & we are helping them at the charge of the State to the extent of the law $11.00 per. I wish to know if there is any mistake about the matter. I have neglected to write supposing every month he would be reported, if you will inform me in regard to the matter immediately
as I do not like to help at the expense of the State, although it is a benefit to use as a reward as they will be unable to live without some help, perhaps unless he furnishes them himself with some aid as it is supposed by some he does now in a sly or secret way. The family has their aid allowed by the State up to the first of the present month & if I receive no instructions on the matter shall continue to furnish the family the same as usual.

Adjt. Gen.  
John L. Hodges

Yours with respect,

[Signature]

[Signature]