

Saco, March 25th 1865.

Genl. John L. Haddon,

Dear Sir,

I have a personal favor to ask of you concerning the bearer, Capt. Saml. H. Pillsbury of Co. A., 5th Regt. Me. Vols. Lieut. Chandler of his company & himself obtained permission of Col. Edwards (as Capt. P. & Lieut. C. both supposed) for them to go out after forage; before going a mile from camp they were "gobbled up" by Mosby & have been in confinement ever since ^(nearly two years). A Court-martial was held & Col. Edwards saying that he only gave permission to Lieut. C. (& not to Capt. P.) Capt. Pillsbury was dismissed the service. Col. Edwards has recently given his affidavit that he has no doubt that Capt. P. supposed he had permission; that he was always a brave soldier & good officer and ought to be reinstated.

Gov. Coburn & Cong have hitherto refused to fill the vacancy because they thought Capt. P. ought to be restored to his rank & command; now I wish (if after hearing the matter & seeing the statements of Col. Edwards & Gov. Coburn & you can conscientiously do so) you would give Capt. P. a letter addressed to the Sec'y. of War requesting & recommending his reinstatement. This is asked by all the leading men of Biddeford where Capt. P. resides, as appears by their urgent letter to Gov. Cong. They, as well as I, have a strong feeling of interest in this matter deeming it a matter of simple justice in the premises (for strictly between us there is no doubt Col. Edwards did give permission) and hope you will see your way clear to give Capt. P. such a

letter as may assist him in
returning to the service; which
he never would have left voluntarily
& especially in the way he did.
Please give his story a hearing
and aid him if you can and you
will hardly oblige him more than
you will me.

Very truly & respectfully,
Your obed^t & serv^t,
Edwin B. Smith

A letter from you is better than a
three foot petition from civilian
office-holders.

Edwin B. Smith
Saco
March 25 '65