

Rutland May 8th 61

Dear Wife

I shall not have a chance to see you again very soon for we are to start for West-Monroe tomorrow morning. I think by the way of Whitehall but cant find out certain we shall probably stay in New York tomorrow night and from thence to the job by boat to Annapolis & so on all the boys receive the news with hearty Cheers and are anxious to be on their way. We are to be mustered in to the U.S. Service this after noon and receive our equipment in full. I just saw Mr. Barrett and he says that Aunt Lydia is in town and will be down here this P.M. I was in hopes to see George or Elias here before I left but probably shall not.