

I wish I could be there and go
to school with you this winter
I suppose you have not forgotten
what good times we used to have
at the writing schools and the
spelling schools, especially do I
remember the last writing school
and the famous copy the Hawk
set for me. Tell Hannah the
hawk flies just as much as he
did last winter. Well I suppose
you are tired of reading such stuff
as this before now, so I will not
torment you any more at present
you must excuse this bad letter
for my fingers is almost froze
give my love and respects to every
body that wants it, from your
Friend, Ed. Thomas

little Falls December the 10th
1862

Dear friend, Ira

I received your letter just before we
left the fort, we started from there on
Monday the first day of December and
reached this place, the next Sunday.
we had a very pleasant journey for
the time of year, I slept in the
Barne every night but three, we crawled
into the hay like a parcel of pigs.
but I suppose I have no right to grumble
for the captain had to bunk with the
Mules, one night as well as the rest of
us. while the corporals and some of
the high privates, slept in the
House, we had but little snow
to tramp through but just
enough to make it hard, travel^{ing}
but the best of all the fun was when

we got to our stopping place
at night, half tired - to death.

we had as comfortable a place, to set
down and rest, as the snow and cold
ground, could afford, well I do, I must
tell you of one great curiosity, I seen,
it was at a small tavern where we
stoped one night, Silvester Guesdell
and I, went into a small room to
take off our harness, while we were
standing there, the door opened and
a beautiful Damsel, with red hair,
and red face and eyes, that looked like
skimed milk, and about as big arou-
nd as she was long, made her
appearance, when ~~she~~ she saw us
she turned up her nose, high enough
to hang your hat on. then she slam-
ed the door shut. and said she wished
the darned Soldiers would keep away
I tell you I would have fell in love

with her, but I concluded it would
do no good, so I didnt. this town is
a fifteen miles below Fort, Ripley on
the mississippi river, we shall only
stay here ten or twelve days, you say
there is carecly any ~~or~~ young folks left
except the girls, and you say I know
you dont care much about them, of course
I know you dont care much about the
girls, but I know you do care much about
A girl, now as to my falling in love
with the Gach girls at newulm, I
Suppose that danger is passed and
you need not be uneasy on that point,
Now about the joke on Lafe I
think it was A good one. I only
Wish it had been Andrew as well
as Lafe, I wonder what Andrew
thinks About getting mrried by
this time, I suppose he thinks
it a little mixed. Well I do,