

Sykesville), of troop activity along the Potomac River in Washington County. Ride-out, who was related to some of the Jews slaves, evidently had a strong relationship with their mistresses:

In this part of the country there is a great number of union troops of soldiers come on from the north. This town is close to the northern river. Virginia persons can hulloo to each other across the river. And the soldiers is continuously crossing the river from the state of Maryland into Virginia. We hear nothing much here but the drumming of War, War, War, the rattling of the guns and sounds of the infantry, the hitting of the swords, shinning of the bayonets, neighing of the horses. When will the time come that man will learn wars no more. Let us pray for the peace of God and for the Glorious United States of America.

Dear Miss S please give my love to all, both white and colored. I will come to you all as soon as I can. Hope all peace. May the God of Heaven bless you and yours.²⁶

1862

A letter to his wife from John Boston, an escaped Virginia slave who found refuge in New York, was intercepted and sent to a committee of the Maryland House of Delegates, who demanded of General McClellan how Boston's owner, "a loyal citizen of Maryland," could recover his property (whether Boston's wife, Elizabeth, ever saw this letter is unknown):

My Dear Wife it is with grate joy I take this time to let you know Whare I am i am now in Safety in the 14th Regiment of Brooklyn this Day i can Address you thank god as a free man I had a little tubble in gitting away But as the lord led the Children of Isrel to the land of Canon So he led me to a land Whare freedom Will rain in spite Of earth and hell Dear you must make your Self content i am free from al the Slavers Lash and as you have chose the Wise plan Of Serving the lord i hope you Will pray Much and i will try by the help of god To Serv him With all my hart i am with a very nice man and have All that hart Can Wish But My Dear I Cant express my grate desire that i have to See you i trust the time Will come When We Shal meet again And if We dont met on earth We Will Meet in heven Whare Jesas ranes Dear Elizabeth tell Mrs Own[ees] That i trust that She Will Continue Her kindness to you and that god Will Bless her on earth and Save Her In grate eternity My Accomplements To Mrs. Owens and her Children may They Prosper through life i never Shall forgit her kindness to me Dear Wife i must Close rest yourself Contented i am free I want you to rite To me Soon as you Can Without Delay Direct your letter to the 14th Regiment New York State malitia Uptions Hill Virginia In Care of Mr Cranford Com²⁷

One Annapolis man

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