

George Oscar French (1844-1865) Family Papers
Letter of Samuel Dowling
Transcribed by Dawn Hance; typed by Joann Nichols; edited by Paul Zeller

[Samuel Dowling (1838-1918) buried Poultney; Sergeant, Co. H, First Regiment Cavalry, mustered out 11-18-64]

U.S. General Hospital, Annapolis Md [1863]

Mr. E.W. French Esqr.

Dear Sir

You have before this heard of my capture. Well I am neither dead nor wounded. I am a great deal better than 20 dead men. I would like to give you a full account of what I have seen & went through for the last five months, but it would only be taxing your belief & trying your patience so I guess I'll be short with my yarns. On the 6th of July I turned over my horse & equipment to Old Jeff, tough, & hooffed it from Hagerstown to Stanton a distance of 14 miles. Went on to Belle Island July 22d was kept there until the 22d October when I, by accident got away over the James to Richmond, & on the 16th of Nov I got paroled & sent to our lines, came by the way of Fortress Monroe to Annapolis arrived here Nov 18th in much better health than I could expect from the treatment recd I consider my self lucky in getting away when I did. 136 days was enough for me, & came near being too much. Johnny Reb only redused me 70 [or 10] pounds that's all. I am dowing well now & hope soon to make up for lost time. I have not heard one word from my friends in Vermont since last June & a letter would not go bad. Tell me all the news, in your answer to this.

Give my love to all the family

Please excuse the shortness of this & I will do better the next one

I am very respectfully your obedient servant

Samuel Dowling