

## William Leeman to his mother

From "Harpers Ferry" about two weeks before the raid that took his life, William H. Leeman wrote his mother that, although he didn't want to worry her, he was "waring with Slavery the greatest Curse that ever infested America," and he fully expected the entire South to be "free" by the time they finished. He had "been Engaged [for the past three years] in a Secret Asosiation [sic] of as gallaint fellows as ever puled a trigger with the sole purpose of the Extermination of Slavery," and they were now ready and "determined to strike for Freedom Incite the Slaves to Rebellion and Establish a free government."

Creator: Leeman, William H.

Date: October 2, 1859

Callnumber: Richard Hinton Coll. #384 Box 1 Folder 9

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Harpers Ferry Oct 26 1859

Dear Mother

I have not written you for a long time and have not heard from you for a longer. I am well and very anxious to hear from you I am now in a Southern Slave State and before I leave it it will be a free State Mother & every other one in the South give Mother I am warring with Slavery the greatest Evil that ever infested America in explanation of my absence from you for so long a time I could tell you that for three years I have been engaged in a Secret Association of as gallant fellows as ever pulled a trigger with the sole purpose of the



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Determination of Slavery we  
 are now all privately gathered  
 in @ Slave State where we are  
 determined to strike for Freedom  
 Incite the Slaves to Rebellion and  
 Establish @ free government & with  
 the help of God we will carry it  
 through now you see Mother the  
 reason why I have stand away from  
 you so long why I have never  
 helped you when I knew you was in  
 want and why I have not ex-  
 plained to you before I dared  
 not divulge it before for  
 fear of my Lips now we  
 are about to commence it does  
 not make any difference but  
 Mother I charge you not  
 to divulge @ word in this letter  
 out of the Family for for ever



William Leeman to his mother

untill you hear from me  
in actual Service

I dont want you to worry  
yourself about me at all I shall  
be in Danger I own but it is  
Natural to me I shall not get  
killed I am in a good Case  
and I am not afraid and  
I know my Mother will not  
object I know you have a Generous  
Heart I know you will sacrifice  
something for your fellow beings  
in bondage I know one Lady  
in N.Y. that bid her Husband  
and four Sons to take up arms  
in our Cause & they are here with  
us now beside Mother it will  
bring me a Name & Fortune  
If we succeed we will not want  
any more  
yes Mother if I knew



William Leeman to his mother

you would not conne  
 yourself I should be happier  
 fast as soon as I get some  
 money I will send it to you  
 I have none now give my respects  
 to all my family I mind if I  
 have any more till I can  
 cheer up he will not have  
 to wait much longer I think  
 Give my love to the girls  
 Tell Lizzie to write me directly  
 you need this direct in an  
 outside Envelope to John Henry  
 Chambersburg Pa  
 your affectionate son  
 Wm Leeman

## William Leeman to his mother

PS  
Mother dont let @ covered  
out of the family by any means  
untill I commence operations for  
fear if we should not commence now  
it may endanger my life  
Wm Leeman  
Mr. Hinton.  
This is the last letter of mine Brother ever wrote.