

Devon, Pa--
Oct 30th 1902
My dear father

Your very kind dear letter reached me a day or two ago. I appreciate so much every word you say, and agree with you. We must put our heads to-gether [sic] and think out a new plan-- I am willing to do anything you suggest.

Jack will sail from Manila on the 31st of this month- I received the cablegram on yesterday - Of course he did not tell an account of cost or me the name of the transport or how he was returning whether to San Francisco or New York -- but we can find out through the transport office in New York.

It's a bitter distress to me that our dear boy is to be mustered out I had hoped that he would have been retired in the service and been given in time a home post, but tis [sic] not so and we must now see what can be done -- The time he has given up to army life has been well spent, he has improved in every way, he is better fitted to fill any position in life now than ever before.

Now father dear what do you think I had better do? Unfortunately I do not know any Senator. James McMillan was the last friend I had in the Senate and he as you know died last summer so I have no one to appeal to for aid or influence. If I went to the President what must I say -- how must I appeal to him?

I do not think it wise to ask for service for Jack in the Philippines for his health is already suffering in his last letters to me he has told me of being laid up with rheumatism in legs and left shoulder how much he suffered, and how good both Colonel and Mrs. Pettif were to him -- how they have taken care of him etc. etc. So it would not be wise to have him return for awhile [sic] to Philippines --

I think dear we had best not talk too much about rheumatism it might injure the cause unless you think it might be a strong card to play- However, let us keep our council until we agree upon what is best to be done- My first desire of course is for Jack to be in the regular service but I fear that is out of the question -- next to that if he could get some position under the Government. I am sure I do not know what to do I feel discouraged but I shall never let dear Jack know how I do feel -- When I get the dear boy back to me again, I shall not make him unhappy by regrets- for tis [sic] done with now. He has been sent home with the volunteers. They are cast off by the Government as we would cast off an old or useless garment -- It does seem hard to be so treated.

I naturally feel discouraged -- I have had so many ups and downs in my married life, & Jack & I are rather advanced in years to be starting on new careers, still unless you and I can do something in the army then we must make the best of it and see what next can be done and I feel sure that whatever Jack undertakes to do now will be well done for he is very different from what he was-

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Write me and suggest a plan of action. You will have to tell me and keep me clear in this matter.

How are you? I hope you are keeping well.

My dear papa is an invalid, he is better than he was last spring and early summer, but he is a very ill man. You cannot picture papa as he is now remembering him as you must as such a rigorous strong active man, now so thin so weak & unable to walk more than two blocks, a drive of an hour exhausts him tis [sic] pitiful to see him. We are all very unhappy about him.

Write me & soon dear tell me what you hear about Henry Randall's unhappiness-

with much love

Believe me always yours most affectionately

Alice Hoyt Henry

