

Head Quarters 23<sup>rd</sup> Iowa Infy  
Camp Van Buren Mo Dec 29<sup>th</sup> 1862

Hon John A. Casson  
4<sup>th</sup> Asst Postmaster  
W. S.

Dear Sir

I have written  
to President Lincoln and referred  
him to you, and a few other of my  
friends. I ask for an Iowa Brigade  
of 5 regiments and 4 batteries  
to operate, independent of other  
armies, West of the Mississippi  
in hunting up and destroying  
rebels, I want to fight till this  
rebellion is crushed out. I can  
make such a Brigade do what  
will make the most daring and  
dashing of the rebel leaders stare

They are beating us in activity  
and dash, I know we can  
beat them at that game, and  
I want permission to try it, I am  
a young man but I have an old  
experience I have very rarely failed  
in anything I ever undertook

I dep. rivalry in taking a body  
of men (Regiment or Brigade)  
and making them a homogeneous  
mass approaching invincibility as  
near as men can. I can serve my  
Country better in Command of  
such a Brigade as I ask for  
than in my present Command.  
And I ask you candidly and  
earnestly to help me get it

Yours very truly

W. H. Kinsman  
Col. Comdg.  
23<sup>d</sup> Iowa Infy

W. H. KINSMAN  
Col. 230. IOWA