



USS Constitution
Museum

TRANSCRIPTION OF

**Letter from Samuel L. Wilson to "Friend Everett,"
September 24, 1861**

USS Constitution Museum Collection [2441.1]

Naval Academy Ship Constitution
Newport R.I. Sept 24" 1861

Friend Everett,

I wrote you on Saturday last- and stated that on Tuesday 24 we would go on board ship Constitution. and today at 9 O'clock am we went a board and reported ourselves to Capt Rogers. and after going through certain ceremonies, among which was reading the articles of War. we were received and went to drilling in crew drill. Our seats in study room recitation room, and at tables, lockers, and hammocks are all numbered, and we have the same ones every day. My number is Crew 3 number 6. as soon as our class get full then the crews will be changed, and numbered according to size. It would have been fun for you to see us at 7 O'clock tonight march up on the spar deck and get our hammocks and then march down to Bearth [sic] deck and string our hammocks. It was fun to see the boys and hear the remarks when no officer was near.

We did not get our uniforms today. we got our fatigue caps, which are

a round flat-top. and no front pieces
to it. our jumpers we will get in a day
or two. and our dress uniform by Sunday,

It is not what I expected but am
bound to stick it out.

I do not expect to
go to Newport for two weeks. and
must remain on ship until my time
to go on shore arrives patiently.

There is but little timber
in the Constitution that was in when
1st built. She is a gay ship, and
If we get a chance can fight on
her [?].

Every thing is kept so
strict here and a great many of
the boys are tired of it a ready, but
my motto is learn to obey before you command.

I Hope you have seen
Pinkerton and got me those two
Dollars on the way as I am in debt
to them and told them I would pay it
in a few days and suppose they will
be after it.

We have a very pleasant

situation and I like it very well.
I go up on the poop Deck and take
the glass and look all over the
bay, and can see young ladies all
over in row boats and can see Newport
plain and distinguished people walking
along.

If you ever come to New
York to see Mr Hurlbut you must
come up and see me. I know
you would enjoy your visit.
if you came in the summer, when
Newport is full of the fashionable
people, who come hear [sic] to Bathe.

“Tell Libbee & Billie if they will
come down they can get a wagon
load of pretty shells and stones on
the shore when the tide is out, or
down.

Love to all Answer Soon
Yours Affectionately
Samuel L. Wilson
Acting Midshipman
Ship Constitution
Newport
R. I.

(Written with a
quill)