



P.O. Box 633, Andover, MA 01810

December 2017

Dear Friends,

Yes, it's another letter asking for your support. But would you read it if it meant you might win **Boston Bruins** tickets? Would you read it if it meant that you could provide a special opportunity for local area veterans? If the answer to either of these questions is yes, keep reading.

How long has it been since you sent or received an actual hand-written letter? It has probably been a long time. I still cherish the letters from friends and relatives that fill boxes in my attic, and it seems sad that today's young people won't one day experience the nostalgic joy of pulling out an old letter and reading it for the first time in years.

During World War I, the boys on the front lines had little else to look forward to other than letters from home. Writing helped to ease the pain of separation, as both soldiers and their loved ones anxiously awaited the next communication. The U.S. entered the war in 1917, and in that year alone over 19,000 mailbags crossed the English Channel each day. Many letters were actually written in the trenches, and they painted a dismal picture of life on the front line. The following is a lighter excerpt from a letter sent by Wilbert Spencer to his mother, about his daily routine during the war:

My Dear Mother,

*. . . Every morning here we get up at 6, get some hot coffee in the mess room and bread and butter, then parade at 6:55 till 8. Breakfast, then rifle inspection at 8:45. Entrenching today from 9-12:45. Digging like ordinary navvies and getting to know how to make head cover in the trenches. Then parade at 2 till 3, sometimes Physical Training, sometimes Musketry. Then Range from 4:30-5, Law and Administration to day at 5:15-6:30. Then dress for mess at 8. Rooms for 9-10. I have given you now a fair idea of the day's programme. Of course it varies in work and time. We often go out all morning as field day. Then we usually have night operations 1 or 2 times per week. In fact the life here is very healthy and extraordinarily interesting. . .
Love to all, Kisses to Baby, Your affectionate son, Wilbert*



On May 6, 2018, at 3 p.m., Andover Choral Society, in partnership with the Andover Historical Society, will present "Songs of World War I," marking the 100th anniversary of America's entrance into The Great War. The concert will be held at the Veteran's Memorial Auditorium, Andover's monument to its World War I veterans. The multi-media program will feature songs of the era, including a sing-long of World-War-I-era favorites. This year, contributions from our annual appeal will be used to provide discounted concert tickets to local area veterans. **Please help us to make this event special for these men and women who have served our country, by making your tax-deductible contribution today.**

I also invite you to attend Andover Choral Society's winter concert, at 3 p.m. on Sunday, January 28, 2018, at North Andover High School. "A Voice from Heaven" will feature John Rutter's *Requiem*, Felix Mendelssohn's *As the Deer Pants* and *Grant Us Peace*, and Mack Wilburg's uplifting arrangement of the African-American Spiritual *Peace Like a River*. You may purchase tickets by returning the enclosed card, or by ordering on line at andoverchoralsociety.org/concerts. We offer a group rate for purchases of ten tickets or more, and give a discount for tickets purchased now for both concerts.

We know that you receive many requests for donations at this time of year and we hope you will find a way to include Andover Choral Society in your year-end giving. It is thanks to patrons like you that we can afford to put on two concerts for the community each year. Every donation, no matter the size, means so much to us, and all donors will be recognized in our concert program. If you prefer, you may make your donation electronically, at <http://andoverchoralsociety.org/support>.

Finally, on January 28 the Andover Choral Society will raffle off two free tickets to the **Boston Bruins** game at 7 p.m. on Monday, March 19, 2018 versus the Columbus Blue Jackets (loge 1, row 17, seats 1&2). Return the enclosed card before January 28 and be entered into the raffle for a chance to win! On behalf of the Andover Choral Society, thank you so much for your kind donation and for helping us to bring the joy of choral music to the Merrimack Valley. See you at our concerts!

Sincerely,

Jennifer Hickman
President, Andover Choral Society Board of Directors