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vatory Draper's son Henry had built on the grounds in 1860 and may have witnessed some of the lunar and planetary photography he did during 1863. The following year the Smithsonian published Henry Draper, *On the Construction of a Silvered Glass Telescope, Fifteen and a Half Inches in Aperture, and Its Use in Celestial Photography*, 1864, SI Contributions, vol. 14 (Washington, 1865).

7. Virginia Loyall Farragut and her husband, David Farragut, a navy officer, had left Virginia

the day after it seceded from the Union in April 1861 and had relocated to a house on Draper's property. They were old friends of the Henrys and may have boarded with them at Mrs. Wise's boardinghouse in Washington in the early 1850s. ANB; *New York: A Guide to the Empire State* (New York, 1940), pp. 588-589; Virginia Farragut to Harriet Henry, July 24, 1851, Henry Papers, Smithsonian Archives.

8. Mrs. Fairman Rogers.

174. TO VIRGINIA LOYALL FARRAGUT

Smithsonian Institution
May 6th 1863

My Dear Mrs Farragut

Your note of the 3rd instant¹ has just been received and I hasten to request that you will send your son² directly to our house in the Institution. We will endeavour to make him comfortable, and I will do what I can in the way of promoting the object of his visit to this city. I will introduce him to the President and urge his appointment, to a cadetship, on the ground of the service rendered, to the Government, by his Gallant father,³ as well as on account of his own early promise of distinction in the same line. I regret to say however that I am not very sanguine of success, since arrogant claims, for partizan political service, often throws, into the shade, the modest requests of true patriotic devotion.⁴

I was much disappointed on arriving at Hastings, to learn, from Mrs. Draper,⁵ that you were confined to your bed and that I should probably not have an opportunity of seeing you unless I could stay until the evening train of next day; but this my engagements forbid. I say I was much disappointed, because on^A my way up from New-York in the cars, I happened to ask Dr. Draper if he chanced to know where Mrs. Farragut, the wife of the admiral lived on the North River; and I was surprised to learn from him that you were his near neighbor and that we would meet at dinner in his house that afternoon.

Mrs. Henry and the girls will be glad to see your son and to do all in their power to make his visit agreeable. Washington however has sadly changed since the commencement of the war. The greater part of our intimate acquaintance have left ↑and↓ the city is now overflowing with strangers from the north and west.

We are all well but very sad, when alone, on account of the unhappy condition of the country and the sudden and unexpected death of

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William; who died after a short illness in the latter part of November. Our family separated the last of August for a summer vacation. Mrs. Henry, Mary and myself resort to a place in Maryland; Helen Caroline and William started for Long-Island. William returned to his duties in the Institution too soon, was seized with a bilious attack, but did not let us know his condition until within a few days of his death. His mother and myself, summoned by telegram, reached home on Monday. Mary came on Thursday night; he died on Friday while Helen and Caroline were at Princeton.

He was a most devoted and affectionate son and brother; the hope of his mother and myself as our stay and support in our declining years and the protection of his sisters. His loss has awakened us to a more realizing sense of the transitory nature of all things of the present, and of their trifling importance in comparison with those of the future. Though we are sad we are endeavouring not to give way to unavailing grief but to enlarge our sympathies and to cherish more ardently our friendships. We are not called upon alone to mourn, every village of the whole country is grieving for the dead sacrificed to the ruthless spirit of war.

Truly your friend
Joseph Henry

HM 26824, Huntington Library.

1. Not found.

2. Loyall Farragut (ca. 1844-1916), Rear Admiral David Farragut's only child, acted as secretary to his father from 1861 to 1863 before entering the United States Military Academy in September 1863. George W. Cullum, *Biographical Register of the Officers and Graduates of the U.S. Military Academy*, 3d ed. (Boston and New York, 1891), 3:125; *New York Times*, October 2, 1916.

3. David Glasgow Farragut (1801-1870), a Southerner by birth, had been serving in the United States Navy since the age of nine and had had a wide variety of naval experiences prior to the Civil War. In early 1862 Secretary of the Navy Gideon Welles gave Farragut command of the West Gulf Blockading Squadron. The courage and willingness to take risks that

Farragut exhibited in capturing New Orleans in April 1862 characterized his naval career and made him a famous figure. Following reverses in the Gulf in early 1863, Farragut returned to his home in New York in the summer. He would later return to action, win an important Union victory by capturing Mobile Bay, and become, in July 1866, the first full admiral in the navy. *ANB*.

4. Henry wrote Assistant Secretary of the Navy Gustavus Vasa Fox on July 4 to press Farragut's appointment. Fox Papers, The New-York Historical Society.

5. Antonia Coetana de Paiva Pereira Gardner, who had married John William Draper shortly before they left England in 1832 to settle in the United States. *ANB*, s.v. "Draper, John William."