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Why Soldiers Fought

Soldiers like Ballou fought in the war because of his strong connection to his country and for fighting over what he believed is right. This conviction was so strong that he describes it as being more important to him that the love of his life whom he Is writing the letter to. Ballou mentions his main motivation being those who had fought and died during the revolution so he can enjoy the current life he has now. He feels obligated to give his life for this cause so those after him may also live an easier and more prosperous life. He describes himself going into a war not as a punishment, but as an obligation towards those who came before. By the tone of the letter, it sounds as if Ballou himself is surprised by his own commitment to his country, comparing his urge to fight like chains to a battlefield. This shows that his want to fight for his country was driven by true passion for the cause that the union was fighting for. Creating a very moving letter as he says goodbye to his wife knowing he will probably die in battle not to see her again. Telling her that its ok, and he will always be there for her. Promising her his last breath, he shows so much care and love for Sarah, yet the pure passion for the cause and fighting for the union is stronger than this. It shows the true commitment many of these soldiers had towards the Civil War.