

Camp Mansfield
Mar. 31. 1863

Mrs Steel

The cause of my writing at this time is one which will bring sorrow to you and your family. Macedon has again lost another of her sons and ^{who} ~~one~~ was nearest and dearest to you of all in the Federal army. ~~of~~ You are probably aware that Co. F. was detailed to man a gunboat, at any rate this was the case; and last Saturday morning (Mar. 28th.) the gunboat, Diana, left this place (Bayou Sauvage) and went round to Brashear from there they proceeded up the Bay into a Bayou and came round to ~~Porter~~ sonville on Bayou Teche where they were received by four pieces of artillery and infantry seriously

estimated from two to fifteen
hundred, the gunboat fired on
them at first but soon came in
such a position that they could
not bring their guns to bear on them
and were compelled to surrender after
having five men killed and about
as many wounded from Co. F; among
~~them~~ the killed was your son, he
was ~~you~~ shot through the hips, how
long he lived after being shot I have
not learned but I think not long.

I have just been out and one of the
Co. F. boys informed me that he
lived ^{about} an hour after he was shot, and
he also said that Ed had a watch
which he gave to one of the boys to
give to one of our Sergeants; this
must be Dawson but Dawson
is at New Orleans he went there
Sunday and will be back to morrow
Whether Ed had a watch or not

I do not know; he did have
a revolver. I sold him mine
which he traded of immediately
for a larger one; he had no money
when he bought the pistol and I
suppose none when he left here

So we have just received marching
orders and orders to pack our knapsack
but not to carry them I suppose
we are going up Bayou Teche to pay
the rebels for their last Saturday
work. we have been reinforced with
two batteries and two sections of another
but I would like to see more
infantry but I must close and
pack up I dont know as I can
mail this now I will try.

Who will return from the march
we do not know probably
more will be left behind
than when we went before
Farewell D. W. I'll see you

De Hart.

B. E. Steel's
death



Mrs. Wm. F. Steel
Macedon Center,
New York,

Camp Mansfield
March 31, 1863

Mrs. Steel

The cause of my writing at this time is one which will bring sorrow to you and your family. Macedon has lost another of her sons and one who was nearest and dearest to you of all in the Federal army. You are probably aware that Co. F was detailed to man a gunboat, at any rate this was the case, and last Saturday morning (Mar. 28th) the gunboat Diana, left this place (Bayou Boeuf) and went around to [Brashear] from there proceeded up the Bay into a Bayou and came around to Pattersonville on Bayou Teche where they were received by four pieces of artillery and infantry variously estimated from two to fifteen hundred, the gunboat fired on them at first but soon came in such a position that they could not bring their guns to bear on them and were compelled to surrender after having five men killed and about as many wounded from Co. F. Among the killed was your son, he was shot through the hips how long he lived after being shot I have not learned but I think not long. I have just been out and one of the Co. F boys informed me that he lived about an hour after he was shot and he also said that Ed had a watch which he gave to one of the boys to give to one of our Sargeants, this must be Dawson but Dawson is at New Orleans he went there Sunday and will be back tomorrow. Whether Ed had a watch or not I do not know; he did have a revolver. I sold him mine which he traded off immediately for a larger one; he had no money when he bought the pistol and I suppose none when he left here.

We have just received marching orders and orders to pack our knapsack but not to carry them. I suppose we are going up Bayou Teche to pay the rebels for their last Saturdays work we have been reinforced with two batteries and two sections of another but I would like to see more infantry but I must close and pack up. I don't know as I can mail this now I will try. Who will return from this march we do not know probably more will be left behind than when we went before.

Fairwell

DeHart