

Letter of Assistant Surgeon Dwight W. Day, Baltimore, July 8, 1863.

Dear Parents: I arrived in town this morning, bringing 612 wounded men from our corps hospital, to be forwarded to Philadelphia; shall return this afternoon. We have nearly 1,600 wounded men in the hospital, besides numbers of others scattered around in different corps hospitals. Our corps was badly cut up. . . . Our regiment suffered terribly — there are only 17 men and 3 officers left of those engaged on the first day. . . . The color bearer was shot in three places; three other boys in succession attempted to take the colors off the field but were shot down. . . . Of the Freedom boys I have seen but two — the Pinney brothers. Chauncey was shot through the chest; a portion of the lower tube of the left lung protrudes through the wound — he will probably die. Curtis Pinney is all right, and is taking care of his brother.

Adapted from *The Medical and Surgical History of the War of the Rebellion*:

Private Chauncey Pinney, age 25, was wounded at Gettysburg by a minie ball which entered his left side, fractured the middle of his seventh rib, traversed his chest cavity and lodged in his right side. He was initially treated in the 11<sup>th</sup> Corps field hospital, cared for by his brother Curtis and others. About a month after the battle, on August 6, he was transferred to Camp Letterman, the large consolidated hospital established at Gettysburg. He reportedly had suffered little from the effects of the injury. The ball was excised and the wound was dressed with a simple cerate (a preparation of wax or resin or spermaceti mixed with oil, lard, and medicinal ingredients) supported by adhesive plaster. He was given tonics and an occasional opiate. The tube protruding from the entrance wound, about an inch in size, was at first believed to be a hernia of the lung, as

Assistant Surgeon Day indicated. But it proved to be tissue which yielded to caustic. Pinney suffered from labored respiration and a slight cough and his right leg was very sore and lame from rheumatism. But by August 13 his general health was improving. By September 1 his wound appeared to be healing, although still slightly oozing pus. A month later he was transferred to a Philadelphia hospital. After four months there he returned to duty with the 154<sup>th</sup>. In November 1864 he entered a hospital at Nashville, and in January 1865 he again returned to duty. But that April he was admitted to a hospital at Elmira, where he was discharged in July after the war ended. Two years later a pension examiner reported that Pinney's wound had fractured a vertebra and injured his spinal cord. He was permanently lame and in severe pain; had difficulty and pain in urinating, had lost eyesight, was prostrated by extreme fatigue, and was judged to be totally disabled. Nevertheless, Chancey Pinney lived until 1921, surviving his unharmed brother Curtis by nine years.